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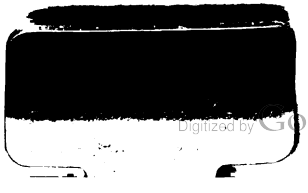

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THOMAS KEN, D.D., BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

(*From a drawing furnished to Mr. Bowles by Sir Rich. Colt Hoare, Bart.*)

[*Frontispiece.*

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THOMAS KEN
AND
IZAAK WALTON

A
SKETCH OF
THEIR LIVES
And Family Connection

BY

E. MARSTON
F.R.G.S.
(The Amateur Angler)

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

DR. DONNE'S SEAL USED IN I. WALTON'S WILL

"*Give me neither Poverty nor Riches*"
PROV. XXX. 8.

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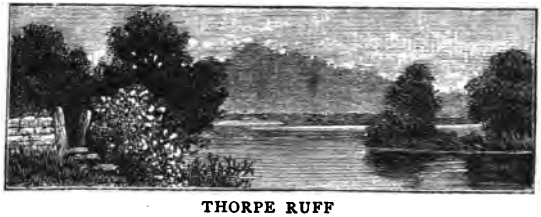

THORPE RUFF

PREFATORY NOTE

I WONDER if there is still room for me in the small corner of the literary world into which I have so many times ventured, and in which I have always been received with kindness for which I am indeed very grateful. Not only has the press uniformly overlooked my shortcomings and treated me generously, but hundreds of private correspondents from all parts of the world have cheered me greatly by taking the trouble to tell me they have found pleasure in reading my books.

In going through this pile of old letters, I came across one which has truly touched me profoundly. The writer is a retired Banker, and a philanthropist, who goes about the world trying to mend it. At one time he writes to me from Cairo, and begs me to join him on a trip *up the Nile.* At another time he turns up in Arizona; "in the desert country,"

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he says, "of our American Egypt, in the land of Montezuma; we are in our element; fresh, pure, clear, desert air, and the *resurrection* among the Aztec ruins going on around us." Then he goes on to say that he had given a copy of one of my books to an old gentleman there "*who is troubled and disabled with the American Millionaire's disease, having got together more than he can get rid of, or, as they express it here, he has bitten off more than he can chew!*" ("Poor rich man, I pity him perfectly," as Izaak Walton says.) "*It is not often he enjoys anything as he does your book; he says it is a* tonic *all through.* He is an old angler, and is so delighted with it that he is sending you some large photographs of his own sport at Catalina Island." To have given pleasure to such an unhappy being as a *Millionaire* must necessarily be, is too great a pleasure for me to keep to myself, I must ask thee, gentle reader, to share it with me!

I leave THOMAS KEN and IZAAK WALTON to thy tender mercies. The work professes nothing more than to furnish a sketch of the lives of two men of opposite tastes and pursuits, brought into intimate relationship by the force of circumstances. They were both good men and honest anglers; the first was a fisher of *Men*, the second an angler of

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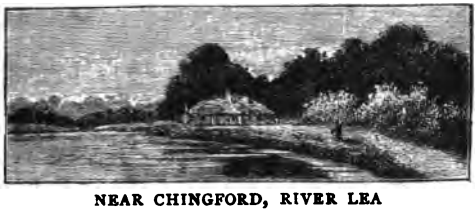
Fish. They were not *Millionaires*, and so their *lives* were happy and contented. They lived and died in charity with all men.

It only remains for me to thank Sir Henry Harben for the beautiful photograph specially taken for me of the *Walton Cabinet*, now in his possession. I have also to thank Mr. R. B. Marston and Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. for allowing me to use the beautiful *Vignettes* which appeared in the Lea and Dove Edition of "The Complete Angler."

E. M.



NEAR CHINGFORD, RIVER LEA

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MEDMENHAM ABBEY, RIVER THAMES

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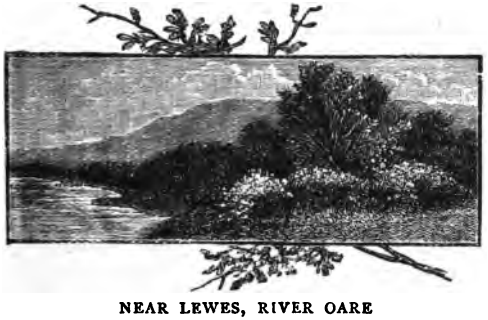

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PART I

THOMAS KEN

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PART I

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IFFLEY MILL ON THAMES

THOMAS KEN AND IZAAK WALTON

CHAPTER I

Life of Ken by Hawkins—By Bowles—Plumptre and others—Ken's birth and parentage—The Ken pedigree—His hymns—Izaak Walton and the Cranmers—Walton's first wife Rachel.

THE name of Bishop Ken is far more widely known in the Christian World than is even that of Izaak Walton in the Angling World, but perhaps to the great majority of those who sing his hymns it is a name and nothing more. For nearly two hundred and fifty years those two hymns, *Awake, my Soul, and with the Sun*, and *Glory to Thee, my God, this Night*,[1] have been said

[1] "In a sort of *plebiscite* as to favourite hymns, taken about twenty years since this noble hymn took the first place."—(H. P. Skepton.)

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and sung in myriads of families throughout all English-speaking countries of the world; and it might be said that no hymn-book is looked on as complete that does not contain them. Bishop Ken's name was prominently before the world in the stirring times through which he lived, from the days of Charles the First to those of Queen Anne, but so were the names of other great men who lived in those days, but who have long since been lost sight of and forgotten. The general public of to-day know that those two hymns were written some time or other by a Bishop Ken, and that is all they do know, and yet the life of Ken was full of incident, and profoundly interesting.

William Hawkins, barrister-at-law, son of Dr. William Hawkins, who had married Anne, daughter of Izaak Walton, wrote a "Life of Bishop Ken," which was published shortly after Ken's death. This work was revised by the Bishop before his death. It was written as an introduction to an edition of his works in four volumes, containing a series of sacred poems, written chiefly in his retirement at Longleat, and including two eloquent sermons.

Another "Life of Thomas Ken, D.D." was written by the Rev W. L. Bowles, M.A., and published

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in two vols. 8vo. in the year 1830. The author, speaking somewhat disparagingly of Mr. Hawkins's work, says that he has been obliged "to spread his canvass rather wide." So wide indeed has he spread it that these volumes may be regarded in some sense as a rather one-sided history of the period through which Ken lived, with a biography of Ken intermittently thrown in.

Since the publication of Mr. Bowles's work in 1830 there have been published Anderdon's "Life" by a Layman, two vols., Dean Plumptre's "Life" in two vols., and others. There is also a long and interesting account in the "Dictionary of National Biography," which also furnishes a very perfect list of all the known authorities having reference to the life and work of Ken. It seems pretty clear, however, that Mr. Hawkins's work supplied most of the facts on which every subsequent biographer has had to rely.

It is mainly from the great mass and variety of material in Mr. Bowles's two volumes that I have endeavoured to dig out a few at least of the most interesting features of Ken's life. I was first attracted to this work in the hope that it would throw some new light on the life of Izaak Walton. In that I have been slightly disappointed. The

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two volumes do, indeed, contain a good deal about Izaak Walton, but more in connection with Morley, Bishop of Winchester, than with Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells. What he does tell us about Walton and Bishop Morley is new and very interesting, but it is founded on tradition, and is not supported by other biographers. Ken himself had much more to do with Izaak Walton, junior, Canon of Salisbury.

Thomas Ken was the third son by his *second* wife[1] of Thomas Ken, attorney-at-law, of Furnival's Inn, London, said also to have been a clerk of the House of Lords, and clerk of assize for the counties of Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor. He was born at Little Berkhampstead, July, 1637. His mother died in 1641, and the father is supposed to have died in 1651, after which date it is probable that his home was mostly at the house of his brother-in-law, Izaak Walton. Thomas Ken the elder had two daughters and one son by his first wife—Anne, born in 1612, married to "that singular and interesting character Izaak Walton, the celebrated

[1] Thomas Ken the elder's first wife was Jane, daughter of Rowland Hughes of Essenden. His second wife was Martha, daughter of John Chalkhill of Kingsbury in Middlesex.

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piscator," in the year 1646 (she was Walton's *second* wife)—Jane and Thomas.

Mr. Bowles's explanation of the pedigree of the Ken family is very confused, contradictory, and unsatisfactory.

> "A pedigree such as would puzzle old Nick,
> Not to mention Sir Harris Nicholas."
> (T. Ingoldsby.)

If Anne Ken was born in 1612, she was twenty-five years old when her brother, or half-brother, Thomas was born, and the future Bishop was nine years old when he became brother-in-law to Izaak Walton, who at that time was fifty-three.

Martha, by the elder Ken's second wife, born June 28, 1628, was married to Mr. James Beachame. Izaak Walton in his will says—

> "I desire him to be kind to his Aunt Beachame, and his Aunt Rose Ken, allowing the first *fifty shillings* a yeare for Bacon and Cheese."

Rose was the wife of John Ken.

So far as I can gather from various sources (for the pedigree given by Mr. Bowles, vol. i. p. 114,

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cannot be relied on) the *Ken pedigree* stands thus—

Anne was born about the year 1612, eldest daughter by first wife (Walton's second wife).
No date, Jane, who married John Symons (of *Paradise Lost* fame).
No date, Thomas, who must have died young.
Jan. 1, 1626, John, first son by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
Jan. 28, 1628, Martha, first daughter by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
Feb. 23, 1629, Mary, second daughter by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
Mar. 26, 1631, Margaret, third daughter by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
July 10, 1632, Hyon, second son by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
April 14, 1635, Elizabeth, fourth daughter by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.
July, 1637, THOMAS, third son by second wife (*not* in the list of St. Giles' baptisms).
Aug. 17, 1638, Mary, fifth daughter by second wife, baptised at St. Giles' (buried Dec. 7, 1639).
Mar. 16, 1640, Martin, fourth son by second wife, baptised at St. Giles'.

In face of this list, partly supplied to him by C. G. Young, *York Herald*, and which he himself gives in his book, Mr. Bowles reaffirms that Thomas Ken was *youngest* son of the *first* wife![1] I can

[1] It will be seen above that *this* Thomas is not the same as *the* Thomas, son of the first wife, born probably more than twenty years before.

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only trust that the above statement is the correct one, which shows that Thomas Ken the elder had twelve children in all—three by his first wife and nine by the second wife; of these *Thomas* was the third son by the second wife.

Izaak Walton himself, so far as I am aware, makes no direct allusion to his first wife, nor is she mentioned by Sir John Hawkins or Doctor Zouch; but in his "Life of Richard Hooker" he says—

> "About forty years past—for I am now past the seventy of my age—I began a happy affinity with William Cranmer—now with God, —Grand-nephew unto the great Archbishop of that name,—a family of noted prudence and resolution, with him and two of his sisters I had an entire and free friendship."

One of these two sisters was the wife of Dr. Spencer, the other sister was Susanna, who married Robert Floud, and their daughter RACHEL married Izaak Walton. This seems pretty clear from the fact that farther on Walton speaks of Dr. Spencer's wife as his *aunt*, and sister of George Cranmer (see Part II. for farther account of Rachel Floud).

It was this George Cranmer, who with Edwin

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Sandys, both of them former pupils of Hooker, on one occasion went to visit him—

> "Where they found him with a book in his hand; it was the 'Odes of Horace,' he being then, like humble and innocent Abel, tending his small allotment of sheep in a common field, which he told his pupils he was forced to do then, for that his servant was gone home to dine and assist his wife to do some necessary household business . . . his two pupils attended him to his house . . . but his quiet company was presently denied them: for Richard was called to *rock the cradle.* At their parting from him Mr. Cranmer said, 'Good Tutor . . . I am sorry that your wife proves not a more comfortable companion.' To whom the good man replied, 'My dear George, if Saints have usually a double share in the miseries of this life, I, that am none, ought not to repine at what my wise Creator hath appointed me; but labour, as indeed I do daily, to submit mine to his will, and possess my soul in patience and peace.'"—(Walton's "Life of Hooker.")

In the "Compleat Angler" there are two poems addressed to Izaak Walton by John Floud, M.A.,

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and Robert Floud;[1] both of them call him their dear brother. They were the sons of Susanna Floud, who was the daughter of Thomas Cranmer, Gent., of St. Mildred's, Canterbury, who was the son of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury, and brother of Archbishop Cranmer. Susanna, as already stated, was the mother of Rachel, who became the first wife of Izaak Walton.

Robert Floud wrote—

"To my dear Brother, Mr. Izaak Walton, on his 'Complete Angler'—

> "This book is so like you and you like it,
> For harmless mirth, expression, art and wit,
> That I protest, ingenuously 'tis true,
> I love this mirth, art, wit, the book and you."
>
> (Rob. Floud, C.)

[1] Rachel was born about 1605, and the marriage licence signed by Izaak Walton is dated December 27, 1626, at Canterbury—Walton had seven children by his first wife, all of whom died in their infancy. Rachel died in 1640.

WINDSOR ON THAMES

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NEAR TEDDINGTON ON THAMES

CHAPTER II

Izaak Walton's Prayer-Book—Story of it—The register in it—Death of Anne Walton—Her epitaph, original draft of—Facsimile from the Prayer-Book—How the copy was made.

IZAAK WALTON'S PRAYER-BOOK

DR. HERBERT HAWES, Prebendary of Salisbury, the friend and school-fellow of the Rev. W. L. Bowles, the author of the work we are referring to, was descended from Izaak Walton and Anne his wife (half-sister of Bishop Ken). To him descended the identical PRAYER-BOOK of old Izaak Walton, a large octavo, splendidly bound, adorned with the arms of Charles the First, printed in 1637,[1] and containing in Walton's handwriting

[1] Mr. Bowles says on page 7, "*first printed* 1637," but on page 72, the date on title-page is 1639.

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the dates of the births of his children. On the first white leaf the following entries appear[1]—

"My father, Isaak Walton, dyed December 16, 1683. I.W." In the same hand: "Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, deprived; dyed March 19, 1710." (These entries by Canon Isaak Walton.) Next appears in another hand: "Dr. William Hawkins, my father, dyed July 17, 1691. W.H." (This is doubtless written by the author of the "Life of Ken.") In the same hand: "My sister, Anne Hawkins, dyed Aug. 18, 1715, and my uncle, Mr. Isaak Walton, junior, dyed Dec. 29, 1719." This is the hand also of W. Hawkins, and another entry, "My sister, Anne Hawkins, dyed Nov. 1723. W.H." (See Part II. Chap. ii.)

In two blank pages, in the handwriting of old Isaac himself, are these entries—

> "My doghter Anne borne the eleventh of March, 1647."

[1] Dr. Hawes had also in his possession at that time an original drawing in crayons by Izaak Walton, Jun., of his father, which he said was the most interesting and characteristic portrait he had ever seen—said to have been drawn from recollection after his death. The PRAYER-BOOK is now said to be in the British Museum.

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"My *last* son Isaac, borne the 7th of September, 1651, at half an hour after two o'clock in the afternoon, being Sunday, and so was baptized in the evening by Mr. Thornton in my house in Clerkenwell. Mr. Henry Davison and brother Beauchamp, were his godfathers, and Mrs. Row his godmother."

"Rachel died 1640." (Walton's first wife.)

"Our doghter Anne, born the 10th July 1640, died the eleventh of May, 1642."

"Anne Walton dyed the 17th of April (1662), about one o'clock in that night, and was buried in the Virgin Mary's Chapel in the Cathedral in Worcester, the 20th day." This was his second wife, half-sister of Ken.

Then follows the epitaph in Walton's handwriting, with a few interlineations. "Alas! alas! that she dyed" (*dyed* crossed out and "is *ded*" inserted).

The epitaph on a small oval monument of white marble in our Lady's Chapel in Worcester Cathedral, on his wife; the following is the first draft in the *Prayer-Book*[1]—

[1] Walton's Prayer-Book. It should be noted that in his days the Prayer-Book was proscribed. The ordinance against the Prayer-Book runs thus :—"1645. That if any person or

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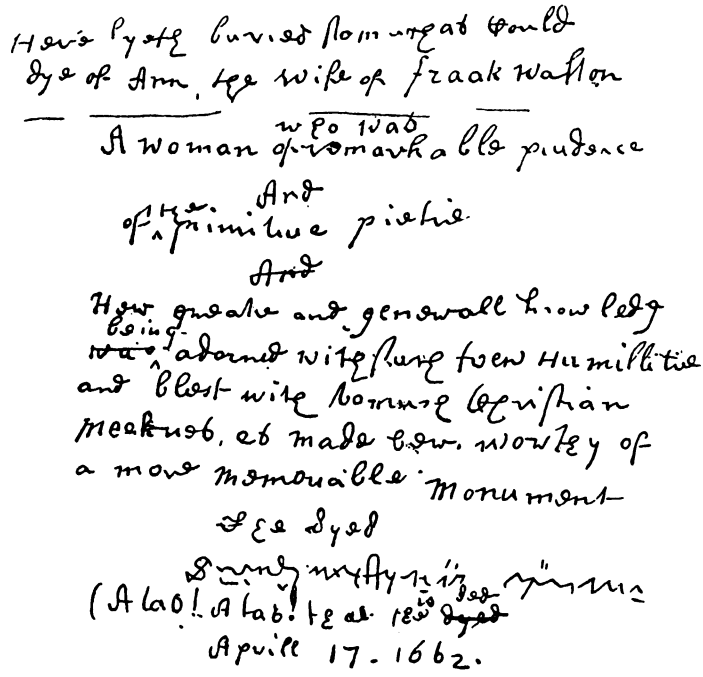
"Here lyeth buried, so much as could dye of Ann the wife of Izaac Walton: who was a



FACSIMILE OF WALTON'S DRAFT OF EPITAPH ON MONUMENT

persons shall use or cause to be used the Common Prayer-Book, they and every person so offending therein, shall for the first offence, forfeit and pay the sum of *five pounds;* for the second offence the sum of *ten pounds;* and for the other offence shall suffer one whole year's imprisonment *without bail or mainprize.*"

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woman of remarkable prudence, and of *the* PRIMITIVE PIETIE, and her greate and generall knowledge being adorned with such trew humillitie, and blest with so much Christian meekeness, as made her worthy of a more memorable monument."

"She died
(an illegible line)
Alas! alas! that she is ded
April 17, 1662."

The epitaph as first written appears with the words OF *primitive piety*, instead of *the* primitive piety—by which Walton wished to imply that *her* piety was that primitive piety which the Reformed Church of England professed—therefore the correction was important. I am glad to be able to give this *facsimile* of the epitaph which was copied from the Prayer-Book, and inserted in Mr. Bowles's book. I may mention, as a very singular coincidence, that some three or four years ago, and long before I had seen or, indeed, known of this work by Mr. Bowles, an old friend, knowing that I was interested in anything referring to J. B. Nichols, author of "The Literary Anecdotes," sent to me an old letter which contains the actual tracing on silver paper from

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ANNE WALTON'S MONUMENT, WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

[*To face page* 16.

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which the facsimile was made for Mr. Bowles, nearly eighty years ago. As a curiosity, as well as coincidence, I give a copy of the letter at foot.[1]

(This letter and the tracing are still in my possession.—E.M.)

[1] "Lake House, near Amesbury, November 27, 1829.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"In the last week I spent some days with our friend Mr. Bowles at Bremhill. He requested me to call on the Rev. Dr. Hawes of Salisbury, and to take off on tracing paper the Epitaph by Isaac Walton[2] on his wife, the sister of Bishop Ken. This I have done to the best of my power, and you will receive it enclosed. Mr. B. desired me to copy it with all its interlineations and corrections—in fact, to make a facsimile of the whole, to transmit it to you, and to say that he would wish you to have it engraved, and in his 'Life of Bp. Ken,' placed opposite to the portrait of Walton.

"From the great peculiarity of the handwriting, I feel convinced the public will never make it out without the assistance of a full and fair copy, which I therefore give you as beneath. You had better consult Mr. B. as to what he would have done on the subject. . . . The Epitaph is the autograph of I.W., and written in his Prayer-Book. The writing is in some places nearly indistinct. I know not what the engraver

[2] I have given the spelling of Izaak, or Isaac, or Izaac, as I find it in the text.

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may make of it, but I took it off as correctly as possible.

"Believe me, in haste,
"My dear Sir,
"Yours most truly,
"EDWARD DUKE."

J. B. Nichols, Esq.,
25 Parliament St.,
Westminster.

WHITE HOUSE FISHERY, HACKNEY MARSH

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NEAR NORBURY, RIVER DOVE

CHAPTER III

THOMAS KEN—Scholar at Winchester—Entry of his admission—His musical voice—Hertford College, Oxford—Fellow of New College, Oxford—Milton's terrible denunciation of the Church of England—Cowper's opinion of Milton—Stephen Marshall—KEN takes degree of B.A.—Elected Fellow of Winchester.

HAVING now done my best to clear up the complicated mystery of the genealogy of the Ken and Izaak Walton family, and to show Walton's connection with Archbishop Cranmer, and Thomas Ken the future Bishop of Bath and Wells, I will proceed to give a sketch of his connection with Morley, Bishop of Winchester; but I must first bring young Ken into that city.

The future Bishop of Bath and Wells entered into life at that eventful period "when the murmurs of the storm began to increase which soon afterwards shook the foundation of the Church of England." Thomas Ken became a scholar on the

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foundation, in the fine old school of Winchester. The entry of admission in the College books is as follows—

> Thomas Ken, de Berkhampstead, in Com. Hertford, annorum 13 ad Michælis 1650, admissus est Jan. 30, 1650–1.

Ken had a fine musical voice,[1] always a recommendation to all ancient ecclesiastical establishments. In after life it is known that no day passed without his singing his *Evening* and *Morning Hymns* to his lute. Mr. Bowles, himself an old Wykhamite, is enthusiastic about the old school and Ken's career there, which has many interesting points.

Ken left Winchester College, a superannuate, between eighteen and nineteen years of age, 1655–6, and was entered at Hart Hall, afterwards Hertford College, Oxford, and in 1657 was admitted Probationer Fellow of New College.

Before proceeding to Oxford, this young enthusiast, like many another, scratched his name, still to be seen, on the stonework of the College Cloister, with the date 1656.

[1] Ken was a member of a musical society, of which Anthony à Wood gives an amusing account of the musicians —among them was "Thomas Ken of Jesus College, a junior. He would be sometimes among them and *sing his part.*"

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It is not a little curious that two years afterwards his half-brother Izaak Walton, without the plea of youth, for he was then sixty-five, perpetrated a similar offence on the monument of Isaak Casaubon in Westminster Abbey—$\frac{\text{I W}}{1658}$—a very improper thing to do in both instances, but it may safely be said that no authorities of either cathedral will ever commit such an act of vandalism as to have those scratchings removed (see Part II. Chap. xiv.).

The most important and the most interesting circumstance connected with Ken's residence at Oxford was the commencement of that friendship with Lord Viscount Weymouth, which led him in the reverses of his lot, and the evening of his days (when he had no home on earth), to the asylum in that noble mansion where he closed his days, Longleat, Wiltshire.

Mr. Bowles gives an interesting retrospect (from the Churchman's point of view) of the Religious Parties in the 17th century, from the opening of the Long Parliament in 1640 to the death of Cromwell, 1658. It may not be uninteresting, before passing on, to cull one or two choice specimens of the language used in the name of Holy Religion.

It is the fashion in these days to extol the

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Elizabethan age as the golden age of literature, and as the fountain head of all true poetic inspiration. It may be true that our country has produced no such unrivalled geniuses as Shakespeare and Milton in these latter days; but surely there must have been some remnants of ancient savagery to be found even in the breast of the author of "Paradise Lost" which is not to be found in any of the poets of our own time. Could any poet of the 19th century have been capable of such absolute brutality, as is to be found in Milton, when he descends from his lofty Pegasus, and writes on Religious Toleration against the Church of England? Mr. Bowles quotes Milton as being the writer of the following passage, which immediately succeeds a lofty and divine passage relating to the first conception of "Paradise Lost." (The 109th Psalm is not to be compared with it.)

> "But they contrary, that by the impairing and diminution of the TRUE FAITH, the *distress* and *servitude* of their country, aspire to high dignity, rule, and promotion here, after a *shameful end* in *this life* (WHICH GOD GRANT THEM!) they shall be thrown down eternally into the DARKEST and

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DEEPEST GULPH of HELL, the TRAMPLE and SPURN of all the other DAMNED, that in the ANGUISH of THEIR TORTURE *shall have* no OTHER EASE than to EXERCISE a RAVING and BESTIAL PLIGHT *for ever*, the *basest, the undermost, the most* DEJECTED, most UNDERFOOT and DOWN-TRODDEN *Vassals of* PERDITION!" (The italics and capitals are not mine. I give them as in Mr. Bowles's book.)

This is a pretty strong specimen of cursing in defence of the *Presbyterians*, of whom he afterwards in his "Tetrachordion" said, "New Presbyter is but old priest writ large," and whom he in another place characterised as "Owls, and cuckoos, asses, apes, and dogs."[1]

"I did but prompt the age to quit their clogs,
By the known rules of ancient liberty,
When straight a barbarous noise environs me,
Of *owls* and *cuckoos*, *asses*, *apes* and *dogs*."
(Sonnet xii.)

[1] Reading "Cowper's Letters" the other day, I came across this defence of Milton: "Milton's mind could not be narrowed by anything; and though he quarrelled with Episcopacy in the Church of England idea of it, I am persuaded that a good Bishop, as well as any other good man, of whatever rank or order, had always a share in his veneration."—(E.M.)

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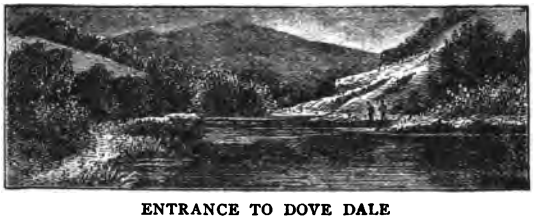
Here is an utterance of the pious Stephen Marshall in 1641—

> "What soldier's heart would not start deliberately to come into a subdued city, and take the little ones on a spear's point, to take them by the *heels*, and BEAT OUT THEIR BRAINS against the wall! Yet if *this work* be to REVENGE GOD'S CHURCH (the Presbyterian!) against BABYLON (the Church of England) he is a BLESSED MAN that takes and dashes the little ones against the stones."

Ken took his degree of Bachelor of Arts, May 3, 1661, and soon afterwards went into orders, at the proper age commencing Master of Arts. In 1663 he was presented to the Rectory of Little Easton, Essex, which he resigned in 1665. Subsequently he was elected with one voice by the Fellows of Winchester to fill the first vacancy of a Fellowship, by the death of Stephen Cook in 1666. He then returned to Winchester as Resident Fellow of that Society.



ENTRANCE TO DOVE DALE

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NEAR WARGRAVE, RIVER THAMES

CHAPTER IV

Ken becomes domestic chaplain to Bishop Morley—Traditional but singular friendship between Morley and Walton—Walton and "Kenna" at the cottage near Stafford, 1648-9—Morley takes refuge with them—Imaginary conversation—Farewell poem.

ON Ken's arrival at Winchester in 1666 he found his widowed brother-in-law domiciled in that city, and it is reasonable to suppose (says Mr. Bowles) that it was through Walton's influence that Ken became domestic chaplain to Bishop Morley, who had just been translated from Worcester to Winchester; he was soon after presented to the Rectory of Brixton (or Brightstone), Isle of Wight.

I now come to a story which Mr. Bowles puts forth as of "undoubted authority." I find it curious and amusing, and I am tempted to quote a portion of it. I am bound to say, however, that I have been unable to find any confirmation of it

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by any other of Ken's or Walton's biographers. Mr. Bowles sticks to his guns; he says—

> "If I had not held the pen, the story of Izaak Walton, which alone explains the origin of Ken's preferments, would have remained probably after death of the last descendant of the family for ever unwritten."

In another place Mr. Bowles speaks of the same story as having derived it from *living traditional information*—that of Dr. Hawes, a descendant of Izaak Walton, the then owner of the *Prayer-Book* and a personal friend of Mr. Bowles.

It seems to me that a good reason for claiming it to be *true* is that it is so difficult to conceive why Mr. Bowles should have gone out of his way to *invent it*. It might also be said that if it were merely a traditionary legend, it is not the only one that wraps Izaak Walton in a veil of mystery. If it is not true, it might have been true, and anyhow it is not *bad*, and so I give it considerably abbreviated.

Mr. Bowles tells us that the singular friendship which existed and lasted till death between Bishop Morley and Izaak Walton, originated in this way. Morley, having been ejected from his Canonry of

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Christchurch by Parliamentary precept in March, 1648, being denounced by the visitors as *malignant* and *contumacious*, and being at the same time deprived of his living of Mildenhall, and in short of everything but his *conscience*, had the world before him, not knowing where to lay his head. It is probable that he first made the acquaintance of Izaak Walton in happier days when he associated with Lord Falkland and Cotton, and when Izaak Walton dwelt in Chancery Lane and was a hearer of Dr. Donne at St. Dunstan's.

Walton left London in 1643, when, as said Wood, the Oxford antiquary, it was "found dangerous for honest men to be there," and when the storm fell on the communion to which he was so ardently attached.

It is probable that when Walton retired from his shop in Chancery Lane, he had made sufficient money to enable him to live comfortably. It is somewhat doubtful where he lived for the next few years, but it seems, as Mr. Bowles believed, that he and his dear wife "Kenna" were residing on their little property near Stafford in 1648, his headquarters being in Clerkenwell.

> "Here," says Mr. Bowles, "after a placid day spent on the margin of the solitary Trent

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> or Dove, musing on the olden times, he returned at evening to the humble home of love, to the evening hymn of his wife, to his infant daughter, afterwards wife of Dr. Hawkins —to his Bible—and to the consolation of his proscribed Prayer-Book."

It was here, according to the Bowles' tradition, that Morley found refuge in the days of his distress; here he resided the year before he left England.

> "He sojourned," says Bowles, "in that peaceful but humble abode twelve months, and to that cottage of affectionate friendship he returned after the execution of Lord Capel, for a few weeks, we may imagine, till he left England, to partake exile and adversity with his new master, the son of the murdered Charles."

Walton's dedication of his "Life of Dr. Sanderson" to George Morley, in which he speaks of his "friendship begun nearly forty years past," is a sufficient refutation of the suggestion that Walton never knew Morley intimately.

Mr. Bowles—having in mind Walton and Cotton's

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IZAAK WALTON, KENNA, HIS WIFE, AND MORLEY, AFTERWARDS BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, AT WALTON'S COTTAGE IN STAFFORDSHIRE

(*From a sketch by J. W. Calcott, R.A.*)

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"imaginary conversations" between *Piscator*, *Viator*, etc.—endeavours in the same style to dramatise the parting scene. The "Conversations" between Morley, "my lord of Winton," and "the poor, honest fisherman!" occupies many pages, of which I will give a few examples, which, however, will hardly bear comparison with the admirable simplicity of Walton and Cotton's charming "talks." He was the more encouraged to attempt this imaginary dialogue because his friend, J. W. Calcott, R.A., the eminent painter, had favoured him with a design on purpose for this work, representing the cottage of Izaak Walton. The picture is given in his book of Walton, "Kenna," and Morley, and it is now reproduced here.

SCENE.—*Cottage of Izaak Walton, near Stafford; Morley and Kenna,*[1] *with her infant; Piscator, returned from fishing.*

PISCATOR. I am glad to come back to my best friends on earth this fine evening of the young

[1] Walton's wife Anne was called *Kenna* from the name Ken. See his own ballad—

"And hear my Kenna sing a song."

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May. The cuckoo has been singing all day, putting us in mind of that verse in the Canticles, "The winter is past, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land," and trust me, I am no less glad to see my Kenna sitting with you, my friend, to enjoy the fragrant air, and look at the swallows skimming the green, as rejoicing to find themselves at home after their long peregrinations in foreign lands.

KENNA. And I indeed have had my eyes fixed on them, and my heart also; for alas! our friend, to whom I shall ever be grateful for so much divine instruction in these troubled times, has spoken to me to-day of leaving us, and going beyond seas, on his distant peregrination, to-morrow morning.

PISCATOR. I shall be sorry to hear of such a resolve . . . but tell me, good and virtuous Master Morley, are you tired of me and "my Kenna," and this our poor cottage; and the birds that sing us to rest at night, and wake us in the morning; and this small garden, and this neat honeysuckle arbour where "we study to be quiet?" Are you tired of me, and of these or poor Kenna, so soon?

MORLEY. Honest Master Walton, my kind and

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affectionate friend, I have lived here upwards of twelve months, far from noise and sorrow, and the troubles of life, and the painted mask of hypocrisy. I may say I have lived here with more true joy and content than I have hitherto experienced in my journey to another country—a *better* country, my Christian friend—where there "is neither storm nor troubles, nor broken friendships" . . . and trust me, wherever I shall be, whilst this life of trial abides, I shall remember, as among the happiest, and peradventure the most profitable, seasons of my life, the time I have passed here in *quietness*, and I hope, improvement of temper and heart.

PISCATOR. Say not so, good Master Morley; . . . I thank the giver of all good that, in our lonely nook, we have been able to cheer, though but for a season, in his way, one whom we love—whom I have loved and respected so long and with whom, with the Word of God and our Prayer-Book, we have taken sweet council together so long!

* * * * *

MORLEY. Come, for I feel the tears, which I have not shed before, stealing into my eyes! To-morrow, before the lark sings above the thatch,

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I shall bid you a long adieu, to seek the King, to wander, I know not whither, or where I may rest my head to-morrow night. I go, perhaps, to die unremembered in a distant land, . . . I could well be content to shâre the humble meal of piety and content in this nook; but I have pondered on everything. . . . I might live to be a burden to you both. I am advancing in life, but still unshrinking to meet whatever may be my fortune. My Royal and kind master has perished—I have taken leave, at the foot of the scaffold, of my last brave friend, Lord Capel. Lest we grow melancholy, dear daughter, I would pray you, before we part—perhaps for ever—to favour me with one of those ditties which I have so often loved to hear in this solitude.

KENNA. What shall it be? My husband's own ballad I once used to sing on the pleasant banks of the Lea, in our golden days of life?

> "I, in the pleasant meads would be;
> These crystal streams shall solace me!"

when he used to love to hear "his Kenna sing a song?" Alas! those pleasant days will never return; and this song now little suits us, with our altered age and fortunes.

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PISCATOR. No, indeed; no more than the old smooth song of honest Kit Marlowe's—

"Come live with me and be my love."

My beloved Kenna, sing to us that song which reminds us of the *contentedness of a country life.*

KENNA (*sings*)—

"Let me live harmlessly, and by the brink
Of Trent or Avon have a dwelling-place,
And on the world and my Creator think;
While some men strive ill-gotten good t' embrace,
And others spend their time in base excess
Of wine, or worse, in war and wantonness."

Then at Piscator's request Kenna sang the more serious song of Master Herbert's, "that," said he, "which I did always love."

KENNA (*sings*)—

"Sweet day, so calm, so clear, so bright—
The bridal of the earth and sky!
Sweet dews shall weep thy fall to-night—
For thou must die."

* * * * *

MORLEY. And, trust me, this song was as well sung as it was melodious, and sacred and full of golden thoughts.

After much more conversation, in which Mr. Bowles makes Morley belabour Izaak with several

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Latin quotations of which he patronisingly says, "Your early studies, my friend, not being 'as classical as my own,' might still enable you to answer!"

PISCATOR *says*—Good Master Morley, if we must part this night, hear me now, and Kenna will join me in this my entreaty. I have this morning in the River Trent, where I pursued my contemplative recreation, *hooked a fine trout*. . . . Kenna shall put her babe to rest, and dress this last meal of contentedness, the TROUT, with such directions as I have given—then you shall read our prayers, for the last time it may be—and then Almighty God be with you wheresoever your journey lies in this wide world, and grant that we may yet, in some still time, come together again where peace and happiness shall be with us to our life's end, and till we lay our burdens down in peace!

[*They part.*

MORLEY'S FAREWELL
To the cottage of Izaak Walton, 1649
TO KENNA

The following is given as though written by Morley himself, and there is nothing to show that it was not written by him, yet I cannot help

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thinking that it is as imaginary as the foregoing conversations. (It is too long to quote in full.)

"England, a long farewell! a long farewell,
My country, to thy woods and streams and hills,
Where I have heard in youth the Sabbath bell,
Through the long year now mute;—affection fills
Mine eyes with tears; yet resolute to wait
Whatever ills betide, whatever fate,—
Far from my native land, from sights of woe,
From scaffolds drenched in gen'rous blood[1] I go—
Sad in a land of strangers, when I bend
With grief of heart, without a home or friend,

* * * * *

Warm from that heart I breathe one parting pray'r—
My good old friend, may God Almighty spare—
Spare for the sake of that poor child, thy life—
Long spare it for thy meek and duteous wife

* * * * *

. . . We may again
Hear heavenly truths in the time-hallow'd Fane—
And the full Chant! Oh, if that day arrive,
And we, old friend! though bow'd with age survive—
How happy, whilst our days on earth shall last,
To pray and think of seasons that are pass'd,
Till on our various way the night shall close,
And in one hallow'd pile, at last, our bones repose."

Eighteen years afterwards they did meet again in Winchester—Morley, now Bishop of Winchester;

[1] He returned to Walton's cottage from the scene of execution of his brave friend, Lord Capel.

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the poor child, now a young woman of nineteen (afterwards married to William Hawkins); Isaac Walton, jun., returned from Oxford; Thomas Ken, now fellow of Wykeham's College. Old Izaac himself had a room specially furnished with his own books in the palace,[1] where he lived a beloved and honoured guest—doubtless spending much of his time on the Itchen—but "poor Kenna" lies in Worcester Cathedral.

[1] Another of Mr. B.'s mistakes. The Palace was not built for many years after, and Walton was domiciled with his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins.

NEAR ASHBOURNE, RIVER DOVE

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GEORGE MORLEY, D.D., BISHOP OF WINCHESTER

(*From an original drawing furnished to Mr. Bowles by the Rev. Dr. Hawes*)

[*To face page* 37.

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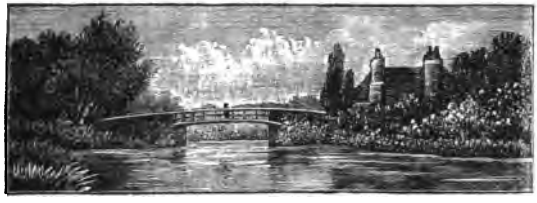

BROXBOURNE GARDEN, RIVER LEA

CHAPTER V

Morley's departure to join the King—His return with Charles at the Restoration—Is made Dean of Christchurch—Then Bishop of Worcester—Then Bishop of Winchester—Izaak Walton's residence with him—Death of Bishop Morley—KEN made Prebendary of Winchester—Composes the two celebrated hymns—Made chaplain to Comptroller of Royal Household—KEN and young Izaak Walton go to Rome—Takes his doctor's degree—Embarks for Holland with Princess of Orange—Return to England—Nell Gwynne—Expedition to Tangier—Made Bishop of Bath and Wells.

I DO not propose to follow the fortunes of Dr. George Morley[1] beyond mentioning a few of the leading occurrences of his life, after his sojourn with Izaak Walton from April, 1648, to May, 1649. He joined the nominal King of England just as

[1] According to Wood, George Morley was son of Francis Morley, by Sarah, sister of Sir John Denham, the poet. He was born in 1597, and educated at Westminster School, from whence he was elected student of Christ Church, Oxford.

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he was about to remove from the Hague. He then returned to Antwerp. He did not return to England till the Restoration, when he came back with the restored monarch, and preached the Restoration sermon, in the year of his *grand climacteric.* He was immediately nominated Dean of Christchurch; two months afterwards he was made Bishop of Worcester, and it was in this cathedral that, two years later, the good and pious Kenna was buried, in 1662.

From Worcester he was translated in 1663 to Winchester, and then it was that he invited Izaak Walton, who was living in Clerkenwell, London, "to live with him in the Episcopal Palace"[1] (so says Mr. Bowles).

In Winchester Walton passed a great part of the rest of his life, writing those charming biographies of great divines, and there can be little doubt that on the banks of the Itchen, the Wiltshire Avon, and other prolific trout streams near Winchester and Salisbury, the old angler spent many a pleasant day. He occasionally varied his abode, and died at the Prebendary House of his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins, whom, as he says in his will, he "loved as his own son," December 15, 1683.

[1] The New Palace was not begun till 1684.

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I shall refer further on to Walton's death and burial in Part II.

The next year, full of days, died his long-tried, and generous, and warm-hearted friend, Morley, 1684, aged eighty-seven. Both were buried in the same cathedral. Mr. Bowles pays a tribute to their memory—he speaks of their unvarying friendship, their warm, but unaffected piety. "They were lovely in their lives, and in their deaths they were not divided."

Returning to Thomas Ken, whom we left a Resident Fellow of Winchester, he was in 1669 promoted to the dignity of a prebendal stall in the restored Cathedral Church of Winchester by that generous prelate who so long had been the warm and constant friend of Izaak Walton. He was also presented with the living of East Woodhay, Hampshire, which he resigned after he had held it a little while, under *pretence of conscience, thinking he had enough without it.*

About this time he published his "Manual for Winchester Scholars," and it was here that he composed those two beautiful hymns which have kept his name so prominently before the world. They were written to be sung in the chambers of the boys, before chapel in the morning, and before they

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lay down in their small boarded beds at night. He soon began to be distinguished for his peculiar eloquence in the pulpit. Pepys frequently speaks of his impressive oratory.

Hawkins says—

> "That neither his study might be the aggressor on his hours of instruction, or what he judged duty prevent his improvement, he strictly accustomed himself to *but one hour's sleep*, which obliged him to rise at one or two o'clock in the morning, or sometimes earlier."

Mr. Bowles leaves one to suppose, though he does not distinctly say so, that Ken in his *collected works omitted these two Hymns*, as being unworthy of a place in his poetical writings, on account of their simplicity! His collected poems being, in fact, far inferior: "Elaborate, metaphysical, affected, and full of the most ludicrous associations, meant to be sublime."

About the year 1674 Ken was made chaplain to the Comptroller of the Royal Household.

King Charles II. occasionally visited Winchester, where he afterwards laid the foundation of that magnificent palace which he never saw completed.

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Thus Ken came frequently under the notice of the Royal visitor.

> "Here then," says Mr. Bowles, "1674, was the old pastoral fisherman, piscator; Ken the Chaplain; Morley, my lord of Winton; Charles the Second, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and occasionally a lady, who will hereafter just appear in this story, Eleanor Gwynn."

Ken and Young Walton go to Rome

Young Izaak Walton, who had been educated under his Uncle Ken, was now in his twenty-fifth year; he had taken his M.A. degree in the year 1675, which was the year of the great jubilee appointed by Clement the 10th.

Ken had long felt a desire to visit Italy, and by some perversity of judgment he, a strong Church of England man, as much opposed to Rome on one hand as to Geneva on the other hand, had chosen this year to carry out his design—a visit which his enemies did not fail afterwards to bring up against him; and in consequence of it he lost the favour of many of his former auditors, who assumed that "he must have been *tinged with popery*."

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On his return he had often been heard to say that he "had great reason to give God thanks for his travels since he returned more confirmed of the purity of the Protestant Religion than before."

Ken was accompanied on this journey by young Izaak Walton, who had cultivated painting, and had attained considerable facility, so that the journey was one of intense interest to him, as it afforded him a rare opportunity of studying the great masters, and by visiting the sublime scenes or pastoral valleys of the Tiber or of Tivoli.

> "Of this journey," says Mr. Bowles, "not one descriptive sketch, not one letter to any friend has been found. The only interesting memorial of this tour is in the possession of Dr. Hawes, a fine head by an unknown Italian master."

Ken and his pupil returned to Winchester the same year, and Ken remained among them till 1679, when he took his doctor's degree. He afterwards embarked for Holland, as chaplain to the Princess of Orange, daughter of James II., who naturally wished to have him near her in a foreign country, not only as English chaplain but as confidential friend. He became a great

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favourite of the princess, for whom he had the highest esteem, but he was no favourite of the prince. He had expressed himself dissatisfied with the prince's treatment of her. He had also induced Count Zulestein to marry a lady whom he had seduced, which excited the prince's anger.

Ken in consequence resigned his post; then William, struck by his courage, became more friendly, and Ken consented to remain. He returned to England in 1680, when he was made King's chaplain, and was commanded to preach before His Majesty.

Young Walton had become domestic chaplain to Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury, on his taking orders; and so it eventually happened that Walton became Canon of Salisbury, holding the living of Polshot and Devizes; he continued on affectionate terms with Ken till his death.

The King, as has already been said, had been occupying himself in superintending the erection of the magnificent palace which he had projected at Winchester. The kindness he had ever shown to Ken forms one of the best traits in his character. His own lodgings were mostly at the Deanery during his stay at Winchester.

A lodging at the prebendal residence of Ken

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was demanded for the King's favourite of the hour.

"Not for his Kingdom!" was Ken's reply. "A woman of ill repute ought not to be endured in the house of a clergyman, and especially the King's Chaplain."

The result was, Nell Gwynne was lodged in a small room attached to the Deanery, by the sanction of the more complacent Dean, and there she lodged while the King was at the Deanery.

Another version of the story is that—

> "The celebrated lady having taken possession in the King's name of the bachelor prebendary's ecclesiastical residence, refused, except *vi et armis*, to move. Possession had been taken in the absence of the owner, who on his return, finding the unexpected guest deaf to entreaty, was obliged to order a *part of the roof to be taken off!* when the lady, thus forcibly dislodged, scudded to the Deanery to make her report to the King."

In 1683 Ken seems to have joined, as chaplain to the High Admiral, Lord Dartmouth, an expeditionary force of twenty ships sent out to

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destroy the mole and works of Tangier. The expedition sailed September, 1683, and was absent six months. During the expedition he had various discussions with Samuel Pepys; he was horrified at the wickedness of the place, and preached boldly against it and against the excessive liberty of swearing in which the English garrison and soldiers indulged ("Pepys' Life"). On his return to Winchester, he found that his old and beloved brother-in-law, *Piscator*, had sunk into the peace of death during his absence. Bishop Morley died in 1684.

Through the death of Morley, the Bishoprick of Winchester became vacant, and was bestowed on Peter Mew, Bishop of Bath and Wells. "A kind of amphibious Bishop," says Mr. Bowles, "half soldier and half priest." Bath and Wells had thus become vacant, and was bestowed by the King, not on the expectant and complaisant "bowing Dean" Meggott, but, unsolicited, as it was totally unexpected, and to the astonishment of all, on THOMAS KEN. The King's peremptory orders were—

"Odds fish! who shall have Bath and Wells but the *little black fellow who wouldn't give poor Nelly a lodging?*"

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On his elevation Ken wrote *in Dedication of his Hymns to Hooper—*

"Among the herdsmen I, a common swain,
Liv'd pleas'd with my low cottage on the plain ;
Till up, like Amos, on a sudden caught,
I to the pastoral chair was trembling brought."

NEAR MEDMENHAM ABBEY ON THAMES

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CHAPEL END, RIVER LEA

CHAPTER VI

KEN in possession of bishopric—Duke of Monmouth's rebellion—Ken appointed to attend the Duke's execution—Terrible scene—Seven bishops sent to the Tower—Their release—Abdication of JAMES II.—Proclamation of WILLIAM AND MARY—Ken refuses to take the Oath of Allegiance—Burnet's letter to him—His reply—His resignation—Retirement to Longleat—Letter to Mrs. Gregge—JAMES died 1791.

KEN BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

BEFORE continuing the story of Ken as Bishop of Bath and Wells, "we must," says Mr. Bowles, "turn our eyes on an awful and unexpected scene, the chamber of death in a voluptuous palace; for even before Ken took possession of his temporalities—in the midst of his careless and libertine career, his imperial patron King Charles II. leaving his Castle of Indolence at Winchester unfinished, was summoned to the judgment seat of the King of Kings." Thus before Ken came into possession James the Second had become king.

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Burnet says of Ken—

> "Ken succeeded *Mew* in Bath and Wells; a man of an ascetic course of life, and yet of a very lively temper, but too hot and sudden. He had a very edifying way of preaching, but it was more apt to move the passions than to instruct; so that his sermons were more beautiful than solid; yet his way was very taking. The King seemed fond of him, and by *him* and Turner the papists hoped that great progress might be made in gaining or at least deluding the Church."

Ken was consecrated at Lambeth, January 25, 1685; his induction had been delayed in consequence of his having been summoned to the bedside of the dying monarch. The scene of that death-bed has been so often described that I must pass it by with the briefest reference. He strove to awaken the King's conscience, speaking "like a man inspired," and vainly urging him to receive the sacrament. Mr. Bowles quotes Burnet in full and gives several pages of his own comments, and then he gives *Ken's own account* of what passed in the death chamber of Charles II., in which it is stated that—

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> "*he gave a close attendance by the Royal bed without intermission at least three whole days and nights*, watching at proper intervals to suggest pious and proper thoughts and ejaculations; in which time the Duchess of Portsmouth coming into the room, the Bishop prevailed on his Majesty to *have her removed!* and took the occasion of representing this injury done to the queen so effectually that his Majesty was induced to send for the queen, and *asking pardon*, had the satisfaction of her forgiveness before he died." Finally he absolved the King, for which he was blamed by some because he received no declaration of penitence. (D. N. B.)

As I had only proposed to myself to give a bare outline of Ken's career, I must pass over all his doings whilst in active possession of his bishopric—his self-denial, his unbounded charity, his parochial schools, of which he was the first and most earnest promoter; the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth; the battle of Sedgemoor; flight of the Duke; his capture and execution;[1] the seven bishops

[1] It was at the request of King James that Bishop Ken was appointed to prepare that unfortunate youth for death,

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sent to the tower (of whom Ken was one) for refusing to read the second Declaration of Indulgence, June 18, and their acquittal, June 30, 1688; the abdication of James II.—till we come to the proclamation of William and Mary, February 13, 1689.

On January 22, 1689, he voted for the request that the Prince of Orange should continue the administration, for the declaration against government by a popish prince, for a *regency*, and against the declaration that the throne was vacant. (D. N. B.)

Unfortunately for Ken, from a worldly point of view, he could not, conscientiously, accept William

as he had been for King Charles II. Lloyd, the friend of Ken, gave the following harrowing description—

"Having laid himself down, and the sign given, the executioner gave a slight stroke, at which he *looked him* in the face, and then he *laid him down again*, when the executioner gave him *two strokes more*, and then threw down his axe, crying, 'HE COULD NOT FINISH HIS WORK!' but being threatened by the sheriffs, he took up the axe again and at *two strokes more cut off his head*."

That was a terrible scene for Ken to witness.

"He then (D. N. B.) went down to Wells, interceded with the King to put a stop to the cruelties of Kirke, and is said to have saved a hundred prisoners from death. . . . The remaining prisoners at Wells he visited day and night, supplied their wants as far as he was able, and urged others to do the same."

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of Orange as his lawful sovereign. He and Dr. Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, and five other bishops argued that a regency should have been established, or else that Mary should be the sole monarch. They had taken the oath of allegiance to the "rightful" sovereign, and although that sovereign had abdicated, they could not swear that his successors were *right and lawful.* It was at length agreed these words should be omitted, and the oath to be taken was this—

> "I do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary. So help me God."

They refused to take the oath and were therefore suspended. Thus in April, 1691, Ken became "the deprived" Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Burnet, now Lord Bishop of Salisbury, never much in sympathy with Ken, wrote him a long letter on the subject of his retirement, in which he said that he was "extremely concerned to see your lordship so unhappily possessed with that which is likely to prove so fatal to the Church, *if we are deprived* of one that has served it *with so much honour*

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as you have done," and he goes on to say that "there was SOMETHING ELSE THAN CONSCIENCE AT THE BOTTOM!" He also accused Ken of having *changed his mind.*

Ken's reply is very dignified, but also very long. With reference to "*change of mind*," Ken had been confidently assured that *King James had by some special instrument made over the kingdom of Ireland to the French King.*

> "Before I went to London," he says, "I told some of my friends that if THAT PROVED TRUE, which was affirmed to us with ALL IMAGINABLE ASSURANCE, it would be an inducement for me to comply; but when I came to town I found it was false; and without being influenced by any one I burnt my paper (a pastoral letter which he had prepared to have published in justification of his change) and adhered to my former opinion. If this is to be called change of mind, and a *change so criminal* that people who are very discerning, and *know my own heart better than myself*, have pronounced sentence upon me that there is SOMETHING ELSE THAN CONSCIENCE AT THE BOTTOM,

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I am much afraid that some of those *who censure me* may be chargeable with more NOTORIOUS CHANGES than that; whether MORE CONSCIENTIOUS OR NO, God only is the judge. If your lordship gives credit to the many misrepresentations which are made of me, and which I, being so used to, can easily disregard, you may naturally enough be in pain for me; for to see one of your brethren throwing himself headlong into a wilful deprivation, not only of honour, and of income, but of a good CONSCIENCE also, are particulars out of which may be framed an idea very deplorable. But though I do daily in many things betray great infirmity, I thank God I cannot accuse myself of any insincerity; so that deprivation will not reach my conscience, and I am in no pain at all for myself. I perceive that, after we have been sufficiently ridiculed, the last mortal stab designed to be given us is to expose us to the world for men of NO CONSCIENCE; and if God is pleased to permit it, His most holy will be done; though what that particular passion of corrupt nature is, which lies at the bottom, and which we gratify in losing all we have, will be hard to

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> determine. God grant such reproaches as these may not revert to their authors."

It would be quite foreign to my purpose to attempt to enter into the politics of the period, or to discuss the question as to whether Ken was right or wrong in his views. I only wish to show by a few examples what those views were and how firmly and conscientiously Ken adhered to them. When a man in a great position of wealth, and influence in which he is wholly absorbed in the endeavour to benefit his fellow creatures, voluntarily throws all away, and chooses dependency and absolute poverty *for conscience' sake*, he surely is entitled to the respect and honour of all. Such was Ken's position when in 1691 he bade farewell to the diocese and the flock so dear to him.

> "Some natural tears he dropp'd, but wiped them soon;
> The world was all before him where to seek
> His place of rest, and Providence his guide."

He retired to the hospitable home of his most benevolent friend, the possessor of Longleat—

> "His friend," says Mr. Bowles, "from Oxford days, bearing with him an uncorrupted heart, the mournful lute of his Sion to console

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> the hours of sickness and comparative solitude —the small Greek Testament. . . . The slender income of *twenty pounds* a quarter, the residue of all he had upon earth—his favourite but 'sorry' horse. . . . There can be no doubt that he consented to take this annuity granted him by Lord Weymouth on express conditions. . . . All the books once in his possession now form the most valuable part of the Marquis of Bath's splendid library."

I gather subsequently what these "express conditions" were; when Ken retired his whole fortune amounted to £800, which sum Lord Weymouth took, and allowed him £60 or £80 a year, it being understood that he was always to regard Longleat as his home.

Ken passed part of his time at Polshot near Devizes, the Rectory belonging to Izaak Walton, son of Piscator Walton. The following is a letter written by him to a lady, on his leaving town—

> "DEAR MRS. GREGGE,
>
> "If you have anything from our friends, direct your letter, not to me, but to Mr. Isaac Walton, Rector of Polshot . . . for to his

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house I am going, God willing, for some time, partly for my health, partly to avoid the cloud under which I lye (and chiefly from my brethren, God forgive them for it), as having done all that is proper for me to do to assert my character, the doing of which has created so many enemies, as I expected it would. My brother of Gloucester is, I hear, out of harm's way, in Wales, at the present, but I have heard nothing from him. . . . Dr. Kidder is now said to be my successor or rather supplanter. He is a person of whom I have no knowledge.

"Your very affectionate friend,

"THO. Bath and Wells."

I find no record as to the time Ken spent at Polsford, but it may be assumed that during the next twenty years of his long life, whilst his home was at Longleat, he not unfrequently visited his young friend and former pupil at Salisbury. "He also spent much of his time at Naish House, the residence of two maiden ladies named Keymis; with Mrs. Thynne, at Lewestón; Archdeacon Sandys, and at the palace at Wells, who all thought themselves happy to have him under their roof. He was so charitable as to give away more than

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he could spare, so that his habit was mean, and he had a poor horse to carry him about." His situation at Longleat must after all have been a pleasant one. It was adjoining his own diocese. There it was that during the reign of William and Mary he passed his peaceful days.

In 1696 Ken was summoned before the Council for putting forth a "charitable recommendation" on behalf of the deprived clergy and their families. He defended himself manfully; he was courteously treated and liberated.

In 1701 King James died, and then the oath of *abjuring the young pretender* was enjoined to be taken by all faithful subjects of King William. This troubled Ken a good deal, fearing that he might be called upon to take it; he said he would, in his "old age and infirmity, leave the country" rather than take an oath which to him would be perjury; but it did not affect him personally. "He that is down need fear no fall."

In 1702 King William died from a fall from his horse. Ken was at this time sixty-five years old. He was living when Charles the First was brought to the block; he had lived to see the Lord Protector's sumptuous and magnificent funeral. He had seen King Charles the Second expire. He had

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witnessed the expulsion and abdication of King James. He had shed tears of affectionate remembrance over his honoured and accomplished mistress Mary, and now he hears of the death of King William.

AT NEWICK, SUSSEX, RIVER OUSE

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NEAR CLAPTON, RIVER LEA

CHAPTER VII

Accession of QUEEN ANNE — Offer of restoration to bishopric—Declined by him—Tremendous hurricane, 1703—Ken's letter thereon—His narrow escape—Bishop Kidder killed in the same storm—Queen Anne settles pension on him—His letter of thanks—His death.

ON the accession of Queen Anne, an offer was made, through the influence of his generous patron, that he should be restored to his diocese, by the removal of Bishop Kidder, who had succeeded him, to another diocese; but this favour, now declining in years, he refused. In connection with this a remarkable thing happened. Ken was staying at his nephew's, Canonry House, Salisbury, in 1703, when that tremendous hurricane occurred which passed over the land, during which a stack of chimneys fell at his bed's head, leaving him uninjured. This storm, which left Ken safe, occasioned the sudden and violent death of Bishop

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Kidder by blowing down a stack of chimneys at the west end of the palace of Wells.

The following letter from Ken to Bishop Lloyd relates his providential escape, and the reason for his declining the bishopric. I give it as I find it in the old spelling, though in other letters the spelling is modernised.

"'All Glory be to God.'

"MY GOOD L^{D} AND B^{R},

"The same post wch brought me your Lordshipp's, brought me the News of ye Occasionall Bills being throwne out by ye Lords. I think I omitted to tell you ye full of my deliverance in *ye late storme*, for the house being surveyed ye day following, ye workmen found y^{t} ye beame wch supported ye roof *over my head was broken out to y^{t} degree, y^{t} had but halfe an inch hold*, so y^{t} was a wonder it would hold together; for wch signall and particular preservation God's holy name be ever praised! I am sure I ought alwayes thankfully to remember it. I, hearing y^{t} ye B^{p} of St. Asaph was offered Bath and Wells, and y^{t} on my account he *refused* it, wrott to give my *assent to it*. I did it in regard to ye diocese, y^{t} they might not have

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a Latitudinarian Traditour imposed on them, who would betray ye baptismall faith, but one who had ability and zeal to effect it; and the imminent danger in which religion now is, and which dayly increases, ought to supersede all ye antient canons. I am so disabled by rheumatik and colick pains, y^t^ I cannot in conscience returne to a public station, were I restored; and I think now ought to excuse me, if in such perillous times I desire a coadjutor, for w^h^ I have good precidents, as well as motives. It is not ye first time I dissented from some of my brethren, and never saw cause to repent it. The ladys send you their duty. God keep us in his holy feare.

"Your Lordshipp's most affect^e^ friend and B^r^,

"KEN.[1]

"Bath, November 18."

[1] In another letter, written shortly afterwards, he says: "The Storme, on Friday night, which was most violent, I mentioned in my last, but I then did not know what happened at Wells, which was much shattered, and the part of the palace where Dr. Kidder and his wife lay, was blown down in the night, and they were both killed and buried in the ruins, and dug out towards morning. It happened the very day of the Clothe-fair when all the county were spectators of the deplorable calamity."

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On Ken's refusal to return to Bath and Wells, for which he was much blamed by all his friends, Queen Anne nobly settled on him an annuity of £200, and it is pleasant to be able to give his letter in which he acknowledges his gratitude for her liberal beneficence.

"'All glory be to God.'

"MY GOOD LORD,

"Your Lordshippe gave me a wonderfull surprise when you informed me y^t^ ye Queen had been pleased to settle a very liberall pension on me. I beseech God to accumulate the blessings of both lives on her Majesty for her loyall bounty to me, so perfectly free and unexpected; and I beseech God abundantly to reward my Lord Treasurer (Godolphin) who inclined her to be thus gratious to me, and to give him a plentifull measure of Wisdome from above.

"My Lord, lett it not shock your native modesty, if I make this just acknowledgment, y^t^ though ye sense I have of her Majestie's favour in ye pension is deservedly great, yett her choosing you for my successor gave me *much more satisfaction;* as my concerne for

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ye eternall welfare of ye flock, exceeded all regarde for my owne temporall advantage, being as truely conscious of my owne infirmitys, as I am assured of your excellent abilitys, of wch ye diocese, even at your first appearance, signally reaped ye fruits. God of his infinite goodnesse keep us in his reverentiall love, and make us wise for eternity.

"My Lord,

"Your Lordshipp's most affectionate Friend and B^r^,

"THO. KEN, L. B. & W.

"June 7, 1704."

This letter was addressed to George Hooper, his early and dearest friend, who was then Bishop of St. Asaph—who after Bishop Kidder's death had accepted Bath and Wells, at Ken's earnest request. After his resignation of the bishopric to this old friend, though age and sickness began to press upon him heavily, he felt more tranquil and happy than he had ever been since his deprivation. His time was divided between Longleat, his old friends at Winchester, and his nephew at Polshot or Salisbury. He had long since ceased to appear in public life, but no murmur was ever heard from him.

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I have now glanced at the chief events of Bishop Ken's life. In public and in private he seems to have been a pattern of Christian simplicity, mild, yet firm, pious, yet without the least tinge of affectation.

WALTHAM ABBEY

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THE STRAITS, DOVE DALE

CHAPTER VIII

Ken's illness at Lewson House, Sherbourne—Removed to Longleat—His death—His will—Characteristics.

IT was at Lewson House, near Sherbourne, in the seventy-third year of his age, that he received the summons for which he had waited so long, and for which as a Christian he had been so long prepared. He hastened back to Longleat, where he was seized with a fit of apoplexy accompanied with other distressing symptoms and by agonising pains. With calm collectedness he put on his shroud before his death, praying, and leaving his parting blessing on those who had kindly nourished him so long, and then gently laying down his head breathed one sigh and was at rest.

Dr. Mereweather of Devizes, whose beautiful

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daughter Jane was married to Ken's great nephew and biographer, attended him in his last moments. In his diary this note was found—

> "19*th* (March 1711). All glory to God. Between 5 and 6 in ye morning, Thomas, late Bishop of Bath and Wells, died at Longleat."

So died Thomas Ken, deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells, at Longleat in the chamber he had long inhabited, which is still shown. He was buried in the churchyard at Frome. "He lies without a name or inscription or any memorial" (so says Mr. Bowles), but he speaks of an iron grating, with the mitre and crosier placed over his grave, at the east end of Frome Church.

> "Far apart, and unconnected with any relative in the lonely spot where he lies, *sine nomine*, in the open churchyard, without a name or any recording chronicle of his fortunes, character, station or virtues, the Right Reverend Thomas Ken, deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was buried here at his own request, as the nearest place to that where he died, in the consecrated ground of his late diocese. . . . Some iron pales only

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fence the mound from the cattle; where the crozier and mitre are uncouthly carved, and further protected by some slender ribs of iron."

NEAR ASHBOURNE, RIVER DOVE

Bishop Ken's Will

Ken's worldly wealth at the time of his death, as may well be supposed, amounted to very little, and the simplicity and kindness of his heart is shown in the careful way he distributed it.

"In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for ever. Amen.

"I, Thomas, late Bishop of Bath and Wells, unworthy, being at present, thanks be to God, in perfect health, both of body and mind, do make and appoint, this my last will and Testament, in manner and form following. I commend my spirit into the hands of my

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Heavenly Father, and my body to the earth, in certain hope, through Jesus Christ my Redeemer, of a happy resurrection. As for my worldly goods, I desire my debts, if I leave any, may be first paid, and that done, I leave and bequeath to the Right Honourable Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, in case he outlives me, all my books of which his Lordship has not duplicates, as a memorial of my gratitude for his signal and continued favours; I leave and bequeath to the Library of the Cathedral at Wells, all my books of which my Lord Weymouth has the duplicates, and of which the Library there has not; or in case I outlive my Lord, I leave to the Library aforesaid to make their choice of all of which they have not duplicates; and the remainder of my books, not chosen for the Library, I leave to be divided between my two nephews, Isaac Walton and John Beacham, excepting those books I shall dispose of to others. I give and bequeath to my sister Ken the sum of Ten pounds; to my niece Krienberg the sum of Fifty pounds. I give and bequeath to my nephew John Beacham the sum of Fifty pounds. I give and bequeath to my nephew

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Isaac Walton the sum of Ten pounds; and to my niece Hawkins, his sister, the sum of Ten pounds; and to her daughter Ann Hawkins, the sum of Fifty pounds; and to her son William Hawkins the sum of Fifty pounds; and to my niece Elizabeth Hawkins the sum of Twenty pounds, to be paid her on the day of marriage, or when my executor shall see it most for her advantage. I give and bequeath to the English deprived Clergy the sum of Fifty pounds; to the deprived Officers Forty pounds; and to the deprived Scotch Clergy the sum of Fifty pounds; to the poor of the parish where I am buried the sum of Five pounds, and to my servant who shall be with me at the time of my death the sum of Ten pounds. I bequeath to the Library at Bath all my French, Italian, and Spanish books. I leave and bequeath to my very Worthy dear friend Mrs. Margaret Mathewe, dwelling in Caerdiffe, my wooden cup lined with gold, and Lord Clarendon's History in six volumes in red Turkey gilt. I bequeath my little *patin*[1] and chalice gilt to the parish where I am buried, for the

[1] Mr. Bowles, writing 1829, says this *patin* is still religiously preserved at Frome.

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use of sick persons who desire the holy sacrament.

"As for my religion, I die in the holy Catholic and Apostolic faith professed by the whole Church before the disunion of East and West, more particularly in the communion of the Church of England, as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan innovations and as it adheres to the doctrine of the Cross. I beg pardon of all whom I have any way offended and I entirely forgive all those who have any way offended me. I acknowledge myself a very great and miserable sinner, but die in humble confidence that on my repentance I shall be accepted in the beloved. I appoint my nephew William Hawkins to be my sole executor of this my last will and Testament who I know will observe the directions punctually which I leave for my burial.

"Witness my hand and seal,

"THOMAS BATH AND WELLS, Depr.

"Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of

"FRA. GREEN.

"JO. JENKINS.

"Probation agreed, London, 11th April, 1711."

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For a moment, glancing backwards, it may be as well to bring together the *dramatis personæ* of our story. Their records are in the cathedrals of Worcester, Winchester, and Salisbury, and the neglected grave of Ken at Frome.

The epitaph on "poor Kenna," sister of Ken, and wife of Izaak Walton, has already been given.

I do not think it has been explained why the beloved "Kenna" was buried in Worcester Cathedral. Is it not reasonable to assume that she and her husband were on a visit to their old friend Morley, who was then Bishop of Worcester, and that she died there during that visit?

Winchester Cathedral contains the remains of Bishop Morley and Izaak Walton, whose epitaph will be given further on.

Salisbury Cathedral contains the remains of Izaak Walton, jun., and of William Hawkins, the first historian of Bishop Ken, but Bishop Ken himself lies buried in the open churchyard of Frome, *sine nomine*, or any recording chronicle. (*See* page 77 for subsequent memorials.)

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Izaac Walton, jun.'s, gravestone of black marble in Salisbury Cathedral is thus inscribed—

H. S. E.
Isaacus Walton, hujus Ecclesiæ
Canonicus residentiarius,
pietatis non fucatæ,
doctrinæ sanæ,
munificentiæ,
benevolentiæ,
Exemplar desiderandum.
Pastoris boni et fidelis functus officiis
per Annos xxxix. in Parochia de Polshot, Wilts.
Obiit Vicesimo nono Decembris,
Anno D^ni^ 1719, ætatis 69.[1]

[1] Isaac Walton, Jun., Izaak Walton's only surviving son, by Anne Ken, was born in Clerkenwell, September 7, 1651, was educated by his uncle Ken, matriculating at Christ Church, Oxford, July 12, 1668 (in *Alumni Oxonienses*, as of Stafford), proceeding to the usual degrees of B.A. 1672, and M.A. 1675–6, domestic chaplain to Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury 1678, Rector of Boscombe 1679 (where Hooker once ministered), Rector of Poulshot 1680–1719; in 1678 the Bishop presented him with the prebend of Yatesbury, which he quickly exchanged for that of Bishopstone, and finally for that of Netheravon, once held by Hooker and John Pearson, Bishop of Chester, the author of the well-known and admirable "Exposition of the Creed."

Regret has often been expressed that he, "in his long

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Part of the Bpps Will that relates to Religion.

As for my Religion, I dye in the Holy Catho-
-lick & Apostolick faith profess'd by the whole
Church before the Disunion of East & West
more particularly I dy in the Communion of y^e
Church of England as it stands distinguished
from all Papall & Puritan innovations &
as it adheres to the doctrine of the Crosse.

FACSIMILE OF THOMAS KEN'S HANDWRITING

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Beneath the same pavement rests the only daughter of Dr Hawkins—

Here lieth the body
of Ann Hawkins,
only daughter of William Hawkins, D.D.,
some time Prebendary of Winchester,
and of Ann his wife, sister
of Izaak Walton, late Canon Residentiary
of this Church.
MORE I AM FORBID.
She died Nov. 27, 1728.

In Salisbury Cathedral—

Here lies buried William Hawkins, Esq.,
Barrister at Law,
who died Nov. 29, 1748,
aged 70.
Also lieth Jane the relict of
William Hawkins
and daughter of John Merewether, M.D.
Died June 11, 1761.

quiet life in Salisbury Close, did not collect some notes of a father to whose biographical faculty, and consequent acceptability with bishops, he owed his canonry."

(A. Schomberg.)

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Under the next stone—

Here lye
the dear remains of Jane
eldest daughter of
William and Jane Hawkins
whose capacity and disposition
exceeding even her parents' hopes,
she became an uncommon loss
on the 12th day of April, 1728.
God's will be done!
Why should we grieve for what we must approve?
The joys of heaven surpass our fondest love.

CHARACTERISTICS

MR. HAWKINS says of Ken: "The holiness and spirituality of his character impressed all who knew him. As bishop he was anxious for the good of the people of his diocese, and he published for their instruction his 'Practice of Divine Love,' in which he afterwards altered some passages in a distinctively Protestant direction. When, as his custom was, he gave alms to the poor whom he met, he would ask them if they could say the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. He took much pains to promote

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the religious education of the children, set up schools where they could be taught to read and say the Catechism. . . . When at Wells on Sunday he would have twelve poor persons to dine with him, and would give them religious counsel."

Of his doings after his retirement the following items, gathered from various sources, may be briefly noted—

In February, 1694, he opposed the "Clandestine Consecration" of non-juring bishops.

March 29. He published a severe letter accusing Archbishop Tenison of unfaithfulness when attending the death-bed of Queen Mary.

In April, 1694, dressed in his episcopal vestments, he read the burial service over his friend Dr. John Kettlewell.

In April, 1696, he was summoned before the Council for putting forth a "charitable recommendation" on behalf of deprived clergy and their families.

In 1702, Ken refused Queen Anne's offer to restore him to his see.

In 1703, Bishop Kidder died, and Ken urged Hooper, Bishop of St. Asaph, to accept Bath and Wells, for which he was blamed.

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In 1704, Queen Anne granted Ken a treasury pension of £200 a year.

In 1711, March 19, he died.

From the portrait prefixed to Mr. Bowles's work, which is also prefixed to the present work, one gets the impression that Ken was a tall man, but D. N. B., quoting Plumptre, says—

> "In person Ken was short and slender, with dark eyes and hair. His expression was winning. He wore no hair on his face, and no wig, allowing his thin hair to grow long at the sides of his head. In manner he was courteous, and in disposition affectionate, tender, and compassionate. Though he was learned, there is no ground for ranking him with the most learned men of his time. He was accomplished, having a knowledge of French, Italian, and Spanish. He was a musician and a poet. He was an eloquent and energetic preacher. In speech and action he was guided by conscience rather than by logical reasoning. His conscience was tender and his feelings sensitive. By nature he seems to have been quick tempered, but was always ready to ask pardon of any whom he offended."

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In 1848 a memorial window was set up in Frome Parish Church by the Marchioness of Bath.

In 1867 his bust was placed in the Shire Hall at Taunton.

In 1885 a window was set up in his memory in Wells Cathedral, and a commemorative service was held on June 29, the anniversary of the trial of the seven bishops.

"Ken's elaborate works," says Lord Macaulay, "have long been forgotten; but his *Morning* and *Evening Hymns* are still repeated daily in thousands of dwellings."

Ken's poetical works, published by Hawkins in 1721 in four volumes, contain poems and hymns on the Gospel narrative, and a series of pieces entitled "Christophel," "Edmund," an epic in thirteen books and poems on the attributes of God, "Hymnothes," an epic in thirteen books, "Anodynes; or, Alleviation of Pain," "Preparations for Death," "Psyche," "Sion," "Urania," "Damonet and Dorilla; or, Chaste Love—a Pastoral." With the exception of the hymn on the *Nativity*, which owes something to Milton, these poems are tedious and rugged, and having nothing of the beauty and majestic simplicity of the three hymns of the *Manual*.

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Mr. Bowles says Dryden's poem "The Good Parson" was written soon after Ken's examination before the Privy Council. The following is said closely to apply to Bishop Ken—

> "And *undeprived*, his benefice forsook."

And again—

> "Rich was his soul, though his attire was poor."

> "Of sixty years he seem'd, and well might last
> To sixty more, but that he lived too fast;
> *Refined* himself to *soul*, to curb the sense
> And almost made a *sin* of *abstinence*."

NEAR CHEE TOR, RIVER WYE

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PART II

IZAAK WALTON

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IZAAK WALTON

(*From the painting by Huysman, in the National Gallery*)

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BUNSTER HILL, DOVE DALE

CHAPTER I

Prologue — KEN and WALTON by Bowles — "Compleat Angler," *first* edition—Sir John Hawkins's "Life of Walton"—"Lea and Dove" edition—*Notes and Queries* —William Oldys found the principal facts for Sir John Hawkins.

PROLOGUE

THE questions may well be asked: Why another Life of Izaak Walton? and what are the qualifications of the writer? My reply to the first question must be apologetic, and my only plea that "it is only a little one."

As to the second inquiry my justification is that I look upon myself as a sort of "poor relation" of Izaak Walton. I have loved him from my youth, and although I am but an indifferent angler, and I never claimed to be anything more than an *amateur*—time and opportunity have always combined to prevent my being anything else—nevertheless, I call myself an unworthy disciple; besides,

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there are some singular links of union between us. Izaak Walton was born in the country; so was I. Izaak Walton dwelt in the purlieus of St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, for more than fifty years; so have I. He was a vestryman of St. Dunstan's for many years; so was I. And have I not in spirit wafted myself back for two hundred and fifty years or so and met him at the corner of Chancery Lane, fully equipped, on a fine May morning, with basket and rod, for an angling expedition to the Lea? I have already told the story of that most delightful outing on which I accompanied him;[1] and how pleased he was when I told him that I had just finished reading his *first edition* of "The Compleat Angler"; that a copy of that little book which he published at *one shilling and sixpence* is now worth *five hundred pounds*, that more than a *hundred* editions have since been published, and what pleased him most of all was to learn that the *one hundredth edition* had been issued from well-nigh the same spot in the parish of St. Dunstan's as that from which was issued the first edition by Richard Marriott in 1653.

Then there are other links that bind us. Have

[1] See "Days in Clover," by the Amateur Angler. Letter No. 3.

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I not fished in the Lea? Have I not followed in his footsteps through the lovely windings of Dove Dale? Have I not more than once made a pilgrimage to the Walton and Cotton Fishing-House? Have I not seen the interior of that renewed but venerable old house? An interior, by the way, which, as I have shown in the text, my venerable old friend himself *never saw* complete; for there is not a scrap of evidence that he ever saw more than a sketch at Beresford Hall, or when "it was not raised so high as the dore."

Again, have I not fished with him on the Itchen, the Test, and the Wiltshire Avon? Walton was sixty-nine before he went to live at Winchester, and therefore, in all probability before he ever fished the Itchen; I, too, had nearly reached that age before I ever saw or fished the Itchen.

Ah! the delightful days, never to be recalled, that I have spent on the banks of the Itchen, below Winchester, and in our old fishing-house; for we, too, had a resort *piscatoribus sacrum*. The good *doctor*, who at the age of nearly ninety has long since gone to his last long home—he who used to drive up from Southampton of a morning, his pockets filled with sweets, which he scattered to the village children by the way; always accompanied

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by his man *John*, who carried the hamper of good things down to the hut, tied his flies on and landed his trout. The *professor*, still flourishing, with whom I hope to have still some more days in the Elysian Fields. The *major*, the *farmer*, and his *buxom wife*, who looked after us so well. There was Joe, my sprightly boy, and dear old *Davies*, who carried my basket, landed my fish, and who cried "Look out, sir, yon's a rise just ath'irt the stream!" "That's right over him as ever wuz." "Got him!" At eighty-four he gave up the ghost and was laid in the old churchyard long ago. *Red Spinner* and *Sarcelle*—names famous in the angling world—sometimes paid us a visit. Many years have swept past since I last fished in that district of the Itchen.

When Izaak Walton went to Salisbury, is it conceivable that he could have gone there unaccompanied by his angling *impedimenta?* I trow not. He must have fished the Avon, past Upavon, and Amesbury and below, and so have I, in the companionship of one whom I have always regarded as the very prototype of Izaak Walton himself. Kind-hearted, wholly forgetful of self, shall I ever forget his sitting up with me nearly all one night at Amesbury when I was suffering from

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an attack brought on by a festive and very hot day on the Downs witnessing a sham fight, and in the evening wading after grayling. Happily he is still among us, just of my own age. Then there was another dear old friend on the Avon and elsewhere, now gone hence and will be no more seen. He always reminded me of *Christopher North*, very like him in outward appearance, an all-round sportsman, at home with the deer on the mountains, the grouse on the moors, the partridge on the stubble, salmon in the lochs, and the trout in the Avon; full of manly vigour, jolly, outspoken, brimful of humorous anecdote and story.

The British race may be divided into two classes, and between them there is a distinctly marked line of division—they are anglers, or they are *not* anglers. Your non-angler knows absolutely nothing about "the gentle Art," and he cares less. You cannot interest him in it. You may tell him the most marvellous, and at the same time the most truthful, tales of your own skill in the catching of trout; you may boast, of course always with the veracity which is the angler's distinguishing merit, of your exploits with big salmon and monster pike; but you will inspire no enthusiasm in him, and the most you can get out of him is a smile lingering

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between boredom and incredulity. He is sometimes inclined to boast of his ignorance. He doesn't know a trout from a grayling, or a pike from a salmon. He thinks fishing an absolute waste of time, and is apt to quote Byron or Dr. Johnson on the point of cruelty.

On the other hand, your true and truthful angler looks upon his *art* as the climax of all earthly enjoyment, "a cheerer of the spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts in those that profess and practise it."

Of these two classes, surely IZAAK WALTON may be called the patron saint of the one class and THOMAS KEN of the other. It may, I think, be safely averred that the tender-hearted Ken, who would not knowingly have trodden upon a worm, would certainly never have impaled him on a hook, and that he never handled a fishing-rod or hooked a trout. WALTON was an angler of fish, KEN was a fisher of men; and they were united in the common love of the Church to which they both belonged.

Izaak Walton was in his eighty-fourth year when he wrote his "Life of Bishop Sanderson." Have I not justified myself, now in my eighty-fourth year, for spending the evening of my days in the

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genial occupation of putting together these scattered materials, which I have endeavoured to weave into a consecutive, though imperfect, sketch of the varied occupations of my "old master" and his brother Ken, during the lengthened, though, after all, very brief strip of *time* allotted to them for their pilgrimage between the two Eternities?

E. M.

Izaak Walton

The "Life of Thomas Ken, D.D.," was written by the Rev. W. L. Bowles, M.A., avowedly as viewed "in connection with public events, and the spirit of the times, political and religious, in which he lived." My object has been as far as possible to disentangle that life from such surroundings, and to present it, briefly and consecutively, and more particularly in its connection with Izaak Walton. I have found the task not so easy as I had expected, for, if I may say so, I do not think Mr. Bowles was particularly careful or systematic in his method of treating the subject; for example, he devotes perhaps a page or two to Ken's personal progress; then he suddenly flies off at a tangent and occupies many pages about the continued

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quarrels between Church and State and Nonconformity in those exciting times; and having fired off a fair amount of his own controversial steam, he suddenly bethinks himself of his hero; he then harks back and sometimes repeats a good deal of what he had already written.

He professes himself a very warm admirer both of Thomas Ken and of Izaak Walton throughout, and I have given the substance of what he had to say about WALTON, which is not very much; whilst therefore availing myself of his help as regards Bishop KEN, I have thought it desirable to present a separate short sketch of Izaak Walton from other sources.

One remarkable trait in the character of Izaak Walton was the entire absence of any desire on his part for literary or posthumous fame. He had never written much about himself or his family. In his extreme modesty he could never have dreamt that anything new about him and his surroundings would be eagerly sought after; or that the *one hundredth edition* of his "Compleat Angler" should have been written two hundred years after his death by one of his most ardent disciples and published within two hundred yards of the very spot whence issued his own modest

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little volume in the year 1653. The *Lea and Dove Edition*, being the *hundredth*, was edited by Mr. R. B. Marston, and as an introduction to it he wrote a brief "Life of Walton"; it was published in 1888. That is twenty years ago, and during these twenty years probably twenty other editions, all more or less of genuine value and importance, have been demanded by the public and supplied by the publishers. In that "Life" Mr Marston diligently sought out and embodied all the known facts, and corrected some errors into which previous biographers had fallen.

That work occupies two large quarto volumes, beautifully illustrated, and was published at prices varying from five guineas to ten guineas, and is therefore not readily accessible. I have Mr. R. B. Marston's full permission to make what use I can of the information he has so laboriously brought together, and of this I have liberally availed myself both as regards text and illustrations.

Several of the illustrations in this volume (including all the vignettes) have *appeared only in the Lea and Dove Edition.*

The "Life of Walton," prefixed to Sir John Hawkins's edition of "The Compleat Angler,"

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published in 1760, has formed the staple of all subsequent "Lives." Mr. R. B. Marston thinks that *Notes and Queries* was perfectly "justified in inferring that we owe the principal facts about Walton's life, not to Sir John Hawkins, but to William Oldys, Norroy King-at-Arms." That may be quite true, as a matter of fact; but if, as is also stated, Oldys searched out this information for and at the request of Sir John Hawkins, the latter must still retain the credit of having supplied his readers with the information. Nor under such circumstances was he bound to give credit to Oldys—although it would have been courteous to have done so.

LALEHAM ON THAMES

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HIGH HOUSE, STAFFORD.

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NEAR HODDESDEN, RIVER LEA

CHAPTER II

Izaak Walton—Birth and birthplace—Birth in town of Stafford—Jervis Walton—Dr. Zouch—Error about Walton's mother—Walton's first wife Rachel—Granddaughter of Thomas Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury, brother of Archbishop Cranmer—Actual house of birth uncertain—Walton's boyhood, nothing known of—Finding his way to London, about sixteen—Suggestion that he may have arrived much earlier—Apprenticeship to Thomas Grinsell—Member of Ironmongers' Company—Was he an ironmonger or sempster—Poem addressed to him by Samuel Page.

Birth and Birthplace of Walton

IZAAK WALTON was born on August 9, 1593, in the parish of St. Mary in the town of Stafford. His baptism is recorded in the register of the same parish as follows: "1593, *Septemb. Baptiz. fuit Isaac Filius* Jervis Walton, 21° *die mensis et anni prædict.*" Of his father, Jervis Walton, little is known. "Of his wife" (meaning Walton's *mother*) "not even the name has been discovered."

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Dr. Zouch says that Walton's *mother* was "the daughter of Edmund Cranmer, Archdeacon of Canterbury." If he had said Walton's first wife, RACHEL, was the grand-daughter of Thomas Cranmer, who was the son of Edmund Cranmer, he would, I think, have been nearer the mark (see Part I. Chap. ii.).

The actual house in Stafford in which Walton was born is, and perhaps always will be, a matter of uncertainty. Mr. Charles Calvert in his "History of Stafford," says he was born in a grand old house in Greengate Street, an illustration of which I give here. "One of the finest specimens of the Elizabethan period in Great Britain." Mr. R. B. Marston is of opinion that Walton could not have been born in this house, first, because it was doubtful whether the house was built when Walton was born; and, secondly, that the only ground for assuming that he did live there was that forty years after Walton's death, Dr. Wettenhall by his will, dated 1723, left the High House to Anne Hawkins, daughter of Dr. Hawkins, and therefore grand-daughter of Izaak Walton.

Anne Hawkins was never married. She lived with her uncle, Canon Izaak Walton, as his house-keeper till he died. She remained settled in

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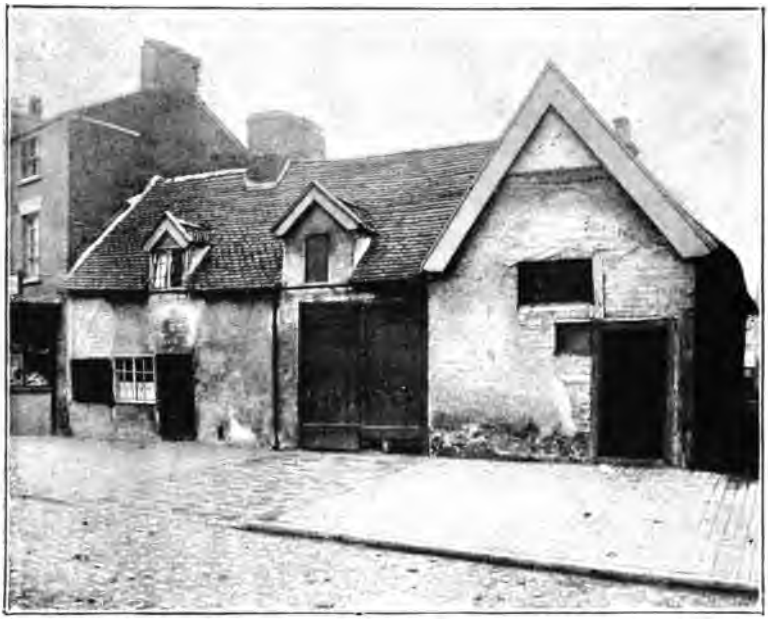

OLD HOUSE IN EASTGATE STREET, STAFFORD

(*Supposed to have been the house in which Walton was born*)

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Salisbury till November 27, 1728, when she died, and lies buried in the cathedral. The Prayer-Book version says she died November 27, 1723 (see Part I. Chap. ii.).

There is a sort of tradition (for it is nothing more) that Walton was born in a much less imposing house (of which I also give an illustration).[1] The chief authority for this is that of "a lady who lived in a house opposite to this one, perhaps a century ago; she stated that she had always been given to understand that this house was the one Walton was born in." It may have been, and probably was, but nobody knows now, or is likely to know.

If dear old Izaak Walton could only have foreseen the perplexities, the searchings and heart-burnings, that his absolute reticence about himself and his family has caused to succeeding generations, one may be quite sure he would have left behind

[1] This house is situated in Eastgate Street. Mr. R. B. Marston says Mr. Mazzinghi, librarian of the Salt Library, Stafford, agrees with him that this probably was the residence of Izaak Walton's parents, it being always assumed, without sufficient ground, that they were *poor people*. And yet Izaak's father was a friend of the learned Isaac Casaubon, who was buried in Westminster Abbey. The house has long been used as a coach-house and stable.

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him some little autobiographic sketch of himself and his surroundings, and so saved his biographers of several generations the exceeding trouble of hunting up dates and pedigrees, the general result of which in the end is to leave "confusion worse confounded."

We want to know what Walton did with himself between the date of his birth and the date of his arrival in London (indeed, we want to know *that* date with certainty), and then we want to know what he did when he got there. All this he might have saved us the trouble of trying to find out by digging up and blundering through musty records to find no certainty in the end.

"So little is known of his early history," says Mr. R. B. Marston, "that Sir Harris Nicolas found himself obliged, after a most diligent search, to record the following passage"—

> "Of his childhood, his guardians, or the means by which he was supported nothing whatever is known, not a single fact can be stated respecting him from the time of his baptism until he obtained his *twentieth* year when he appears to have been a resident in London."

This is vague and unsatisfactory.

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There is nothing to contradict, and much to support, the assumption that Walton must have found his way to London not later than his *sixteenth year* (1609), and that he was apprenticed to one Thomas Grinsell; but where Grinsell carried on his business, or what that business really was, are still matters not beyond the region of controversy. There is quite satisfactory proof that on November 12, 1618, when he was in his twenty-fifth year, Walton was made a member of the Ironmongers' Company. The entry is as follows—

> "1618, 12th November, Isaac Walton, *late apprentice to* THOMAS GRINSELL, was now admitted and sworne a free brother of this Companie, and paid for his admittance xiij*d.* and for default of presentation x*s.*"

Sir Harris Nicolas evidently was not aware of this entry; he says—

> "The first reference to Walton when a young man is in the dedication of a short poem entitled 'The Love of Amos and Laura,' by S. P., published in 1619, to which attention was first drawn by J. Payne Collier, in the 'Poetical Decameron,' vol. ii. p. 111."

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"TO MY APPROVED AND MUCH RESPECTED FRIEND IZ. WA.

"To thee, thou more than thrice beloved friend,
I, too unworthy of so great a bliss,
These harsh-tuned lines I here to thee commend,
Thou being cause it is now as it is,
For had'st thou held thy tongue, by silence might
These have been buried in oblivious night.

"If they were pleasing, I would call them thine,
And disavow my title to the verse,
But being bad, I needs must call them mine.
No ill thing can be clothed in thy verse.
Accept them, then, and where I have offended,
Rase thou it out, and let it be amended."

(S. P.)

The initials S. P. were supposed by Collier and others to be those of Samuel Purchase, author of "The Pilgrimage"; but the D. N. B. sufficiently proves that S. P. was Samuel Page, Vicar of Deptford, and that he dedicated his work, "The Love of Amos and Laura" (the edition of 1619), to Walton. This was reprinted by Dr. Grosart in 1879. The original edition of this poem was published in 1613, but in the only known copy of this first edition of that work, which is *imperfect*, the above lines do not appear (they may have been torn out). At that time Walton was only twenty, and at that early age, while he was still an apprentice

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of Grinsell's, he must have shown wonderful literary proclivities.

Even if these lines did not appear till the edition of 1619, Walton was then a very young man. It does seem marvellous that a young man from the country, a sempster's apprentice, should already have achieved such a literary reputation as should elicit S. P.'s poem.

It is somewhat curious that in a letter of Walton's, previously unpublished, dated November, 1670, which in book form was first published by Mr. R. B. Marston, the following is a postscript—

> "If you incline to write to me, direct your letter to be left at Mr. Grinsell's, a grocer, in King Streite, in Westminster." [1]

[1] One might hazard the suggestion that Walton, having lost both his parents in Stafford, the father in 1596 and the mother previously, was brought to London at a much *earlier* period; that in London he was educated—(*possibly at Westminster*)—before he was apprenticed to Grinsell, with whom the letter above quoted suggests there was a family connection with the Grinsells of Westminster, which had continued for sixty years afterwards. I have, however, been informed by an old friend, Mr. G. F. R. B., the best authority on Westminster School, that the records of "the admissions of 1593–1609 *do not exist.*" If it could be proved it would throw a flood of light on all else that is mysterious in Walton's life. The only reply I have heard to this suggestion

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This was written sixty years after his apprenticeship with Thomas Grinsell.[1]

It does not follow that because Walton was a member of the Ironmongers' Company that therefore he was an ironmonger; on the other hand, the evidence that he was not an ironmonger by trade is not so overwhelming as it was once supposed to be. It is, after all, only a sort of legend that he was a sempster, and that legend grew by what it fed upon. It is rather amusing even to attempt to get to the bottom of it.

First, one hears of "a tradition in the family" that Walton was a *sempster;* then we are told that the tradition has no reference to his occupation at all, but to the fact that Izaak was "instrumental in preserving the LESSER GEORGE which belonged to Charles II."

Sir Harris Nicolas says decidedly, "It is well known that Izaak Walton followed the trade of a sempster or haberdasher."

Then Dr. Zouch says, "According to Anthony Wood, 'he followed the trade of a sempster.'"

is, if he *was* at Westminster, *why* has he never mentioned it? Of course that cannot be answered—except on the plea that he said so little about himself at all.

[1] In Walton's will he leaves a ring to "my cousin, Greinsell, widdow."

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Sir John Hawkins said that Walton's first settlement in London was as "a *shopkeeper* in the Royal Burse in Cornhill," which is not supported by any evidence at all.

On the other hand, we come to the records of the Ironmongers' Company, which neither Dr. Zouch nor Sir Harris Nicolas seem to have consulted.

> "No circumstance," says Mr. Nicholl, F.S.A., in his "History of the Ironmongers' Company," "has given me more gratification in the investigation of the Ironmongers' records than the discovery that Izaak Walton is enrolled among their members. Izaak Walton," continues Mr. Nicholl, "was made free of the Ironmongers' Company in 1617-18. He served as a gentleman in foins in the mayoralty of Sir James Cambell in 1629, and performed the same service in 1635 in the pageant provided for Sir Christopher Clitherow. In 1637 he was chosen Warden of the Yeomanry, and in 1639 paid over to his successors the sum of £2 7*s.* 10*d.*, the balance left in his hands after discharging the duties of that office. He is again mentioned in 1641. The Ironmongers

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were severally assessed for their contributions towards the sum of £40,000 required 'for the important affairs of the Kingdom,' and Walton appears in the list of Yeomanry, and is there described as Izaak Walton of the parish of St. Dunstan's in the West, his contribution amounting to the sum of £3."

SAW MILL IN ASHMEAD DALE, RIVER WYE

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MILLER'S DALE, RIVER WYE

CHAPTER III

Walton's description of himself in marriage licence as an ironmonger—First marriage—Copy of licence—Canterbury—Rachel Floud—Grinsell's calling of ironmonger or sempster further considered—Walton's settlement in Fleet Street—Acquaintance with Dr. Donne—Queen Elizabeth's visit to Sir Thomas Gresham—Verses strewed on her Majesty from Walton's neighbouring house, "The Harrow," by students—Death of Dr. Donne—Donne's bloodstone seals designed by himself, crucifix on anchor, for presentation—Walton asked by Sir H. Wotton to write Life of Donne—"Life of Donne" first published, 1640—Applauded by King Charles I.

WALTON'S DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF AS AN IRONMONGER

IN *Notes and Queries*, November 15, 1873, Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs writes—

> "Rachel Floud was born, says Sir Harris Nicolas, about 1605, and in this he is right, for her marriage licence, which I saw many

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years ago at Canterbury, and which has not, as I believe, been mentioned by any writer on the subject, runs as follows—

"27° die Decembris 1626. Which day appeared personally Isaack Walton of the Cittie of London *Ironmonger* a bacheller of the age of 32 yeares or thereabouts & at his owne gouernment & alleageth that he intendeth to marry with Rachiell Floud of the parish of St. Mildred in the Cittie of Cant. virgine of the age of 19 yeares or thereabouts[1] the daughter of Mrs. Susan Floud of the same parish, widow, who is consentinge to this inttended mariage. And of the truth of the premisses and that he knoweth of noe lawfull lett or impedyment by reason of any precontract consanguinitie affinitie or otherwise to hinder the same he maide faith and desireth license to be married in the parish church of St. Mildred aforesaid.

"IZAAK WALTON."

The following is the entry in the marriage register—

"Isaack Walton and Rachell Floud weare maryed the 27th of December A.D. (sup.)1626."

[1] If she was born in 1605, she must have been twenty-one.

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It may be mentioned that a William Floodd was buried at St. Mildred's on January 29, 1622–3, which William may have been the father of Rachel.

> "If," says Mr. R. B. Marston, "we could find out what business Thomas Grinsell carried on, all doubts as to Izaak's occupation in life would, I think, be set at rest."

Mr. Marston had full access to the old books and registers of St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, through the courtesy of the then rector, the Rev. Wm. Martin; the only result was to find with what extreme care and accuracy these old books had been examined and copied from by Sir Harris Nicolas. A Thomas Grinsell[1] (probably Walton's master) appears to have resided in Paddington, and to have been buried in Paddington Churchyard, March 5, 1644; but on inquiry he found that Paddington Old Church records were transferred to St. James's, Westbourne Terrace, in 1848, and they do not go back beyond 1663.

The search for Grinsell's calling in life, and

[1] Thomas Grinsell, of Paddington. His will, proved 1645, says he lately lived in the parish of St. Dunstan's, and leaves £20 to that parish, and directs a sermon to be preached on November 5; makes his son-in-law, Dr. Valentine, and Izaak Walton, his overseers.

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therefore that of Izaak Walton, must be given up for want of the needful information now unattainable. Mr. R. B. Marston is of opinion (and I agree with him) that although members of a company like the ironmongers are not necessarily all ironmongers, just as members of the Stationers' Company are not all stationers, yet as a matter of fact most of them *are* stationers or ironmongers; and the evidence that Walton was a sempster or haberdasher is by no means so abundantly clear as to nullify the suggestion that after all Walton was an ironmonger and not a sempster. If Walton was a sempster, there does not seem to be any reason why he should not have said so in his *marriage licence.*

Having now settled Walton in London, whether as a hosier, haberdasher, or ironmonger, and married him to Rachel Floud, I will now proceed to find out in what part or parts of London he dwelt during his residence in that city. This I will do as briefly as I can, for I am as anxious as he must have been to get him out of it, and away to the river banks.

Sir John Hawkins says on the authority of a deed in his possession that "in 1624 Walton dwelt on the north side of Fleet Street, in a house two doors west of the end of Chancery Lane, and

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WALTON'S HOUSE IN FLEET STREET

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abutting on a mesuage known by the sign of the *Harrow*, and that this house was in the joint occupation of himself and a *hosier*[1] called John Mason."

It does not follow that Walton was in business connection with Mason.

[1] On the occasion of the unveiling of the memorial window, St. Dunstan's, April 5, 1895 (see Chap. x.), the Master of the Ironmongers' Company stated that at the same time that Walton paid the above-mentioned £2 7*s.* 10*d.* he also presented to the company an apprentice of his, one Edward Blurton, and paid the usual fee therefor. (This slight circumstance was then made known for the first time.) The master further made the following interesting statement as to Walton's *calling:* "After careful search, I have not discovered the faintest hint as to the occupation of Grinsell, or as to that of *Cavell*, who in turn was Grinsell's master, or as to that of Dane, who was Cavell's, thus going back for at least a generation before Walton was born." The master further stated that he attached no importance to the use of the word *Ironmonger* after Walton's name. "By the custom of London one who is free of the City, when styling himself as a citizen appends the name of some trade or craft. That does not indicate the trade or craft he actually belongs to. It simply means that he is a freeman of the Livery Company which bears such name. . . . A citizen, in any address to his fellow citizens, usually signs himself, regardless of what his own calling may be, 'Citizen and Mercer,' or 'Citizen and Goldsmith,' etc. There is nothing therefore in the records of the Ironmongers' Company or Walton's marriage licence to disturb the received tradition that he was a sempster or haberdasher."

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Gosden, who edited a very charming edition of Dr. Zouch's "Life of Walton," says: "The curiously decorated house at the west corner of Chancery Lane, said to have been the oldest house in Fleet Street, erected in the reign of King Edward VI. for an elegant mansion at a time when there were no shops in that part of the City, was long distinguished by the sign of *The Harrow*. Queen Elizabeth, on a visit to Sir Thomas Gresham, January 23, 1570, was complimented by the descent of several cherubs from the top of the house, who from thence, by a contrivance of the students, flew down and presented her Majesty with a crown of laurels and gold, together with some verses, the fourth cherub delivering the following—

"Virtue shall witness of her worthyness,
And fame shall registrate her princelie deeds;
The world shall still praie for her happiness,
From whom our peace and quietude proceeds."

It was during Walton's residence in Fleet Street that he became acquainted with the celebrated Dr. Donne, whose life he wrote many years afterwards.

Dr. Donne was born in London about the year 1573, was educated at Oxford and Cambridge, whence he removed to Lincoln's Inn. Donne afterwards became secretary to Lord Ellesmere.

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He was dismissed his situation, and involved in the greatest poverty and distress in consequence of secretly marrying "a young gentlewoman," says Walton, "who was niece to the lady Ellesmere, and daughter to Sir George More, then Chancellor of the Garter and Lieutenant of the Tower. . . . Many arguments were used to kill or cool their affections to each other; but in vain, for love is a flattering mischief that hath denied aged and wise men a foresight of those evils that too often prove to be the children of that blind father, a passion, that carries us to commit errors with as much ease as whirlwinds move feathers, and begets in us an unwearied industry to the attainment of what we desire."

About 1614 Donne entered into Holy Orders, and at length obtained the Deanery of St. Paul's.

It was probably through Dr. Donne, says Sir Harris Nicolas, that Walton became acquainted with Sir Henry Wotton, Dr. Henry King, John Hales of Eton, and other eminent persons, particularly divines. He was also acquainted with Ben Jonson, he speaks of Drayton as his "honest old friend," and he appears to have lived on terms of intimacy with many of the most distinguished literary men of his time, clear evidence, as his

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biographers point out, of the esteem in which he was held.

On March 31, 1631, Walton lost his revered friend Dr. Donne, who some time before his death caused several seals to be made of heliotropian, or bloodstone, and engraved with a representation of the Saviour extended on an anchor instead of the Cross, which he presented to his most intimate friends, among whom were Sir Henry Wotton, Dr. Hall, Bishop of Exeter, Dr. Duppa, afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. King, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, George Herbert, the author of "The Temple," and Walton, who always used the seal, which is impressed on his will and also on that of his son. An impression of this seal I have placed on the title-page.

Sir Henry Wotton having intended to write the "Life of Donne," requested Walton to collect materials for the purpose. This Walton did, and in his "Reliquiæ Wottonianæ" quotes a letter from Wotton, "in answer of a letter (from Walton) requesting him to perform his promise of writing the 'Life of Dr. Donne.'"

In this letter to "my worthy friend," Wotton says he will endeavour to perform his promise, and finishes by hoping "shortly to enjoy your ever

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welcome company in this approaching time of the *Fly* and the *Cork*, and so I rest

"Your very hearty poor friend to serve you,

"H. WOTTON."

In another letter to Walton he mentions an attack of "those splenetic vapours that are called hypochondriachal, of which most say the cure is good company; and I desire no better physician than yourself."

Sir Henry Wotton died the ensuing December (1639), and Walton, hearing that Dr. Donne's sermons were about to be published without a life of the author, he determined to supply the deficiency from the materials he had collected at the suggestion of Sir Henry Wotton.

The first volume of Donne's sermons, to which Walton's "Life" of him was prefixed, was published in 1640 in folio by John Marriott, probably the father of the Richard Marriott who published "The Compleat Angler" in 1653, and was Walton's friend as well as publisher for nearly fifty years.

Walton's first essay as a biographer was highly applauded by his contemporaries. King Charles the First honoured it with his approbation, and the learned and "ever memorable" John Hales, who

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was styled, from his vast erudition, "the Walking Library," told Dr. King that "he had not seen a life written with more advantage to the subject or more reputation to the writer than that of Dr. Donne."

WORMLEY, RIVER LEA

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MONSAL DALE, RIVER WYE

CHAPTER IV

Walton in Chancery Lane, 1628–1644—Loss of seven children between the years 1627 and 1642, also his wife and mother-in-law—His wedded life—Walton has left no reference to his first wife except the single line in his Prayer-Book, "Rachel died 1640"—His residence 1644 to 1651 uncertain—Partly in Stafford and elsewhere—His property at Stafford—The angler's wish—Facsimile of his writing.

WALTON'S RESIDENCE IN CHANCERY LANE

A REFERENCE to the parish books of St. Dunstan's informs us that Walton's residence in Chancery Lane from 1628 to 1644 was about "the seventh house on the left-hand side," though, unlike most other houses, that of Walton is not called a shop. He filled a parish office in December, 1632, served on a jury in 1633, again on a grand jury in 1638, was one of the overseers of the poor and a sidesman on April 18, 1639, and a vestryman in February, 1640.

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During the time of Walton's residence in Fleet Street and in Chancery Lane, and between the years 1627 and 1642, he had the grievous misfortune to lose all his seven children one after the other, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Floud, and his wife Rachel; she only survived the birth of an infant about six weeks, and dying January 22, 1640, was buried in St. Dunstan's on the 25th. (This infant, named Anne, died May 11, 1642.)

It has been assumed, and doubtless very justly, by Sir Harris Nicolas and other biographers, that from the generous and effective way in which Walton describes the happiness of the wedded life in general, his own home must have been a model of domestic bliss; bearing in mind, however, that during the last twelve years of his (first) married life he lost seven children—that period must have been one of great trial and great sorrow both to husband and wife, demanding the exercise of much Christian virtue and submission. Walton's mother-in-law seems to have died in his house, but it is not recorded how long she lived with the family. Walton himself is very reticent; the only reference that he has ever made, so far as I can discover, to his wife Rachel is that recorded in the Prayer-Book, "Rachel died 1640," and the

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carving on the marriage chest described in Chapter xi.

Walton's description of the married life of Richard Hooker, which has previously been mentioned (see Part I. Chap. i.), is not, unhappily, a picture of domestic felicity. The gentle Izaak may possibly now and then have also been peremptorily called upon to "rock the cradle!"

Walton continued to reside in Chancery Lane until about August, 1644. He was appointed examiner of St. Dunstan's on August 27, 1641; and in February, 1644, he was elected (or more likely re-elected) vestryman of that parish; but at a vestry holden on August 20 in the same year, another person was chosen, "in the room of Izaak Walton, lately departed out of this parish and dwelling elsewhere."

"From 1644 to 1651 there is some uncertainty as to where Walton lived," says Mr. R. B. Marston, but it seems clear that during the year 1648 he must have been living with his wife "Kenna" "on that little property near Stafford"[1] where he was visited by George Morley (afterwards Bishop of Winchester). (See Part I. Chap. iv.)

[1] Walton did not buy this property till about 1654 (see page 115), though he may have occupied it.

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> "Wood the antiquary tells us that, 'finding it dangerous for honest men to be there, he left London and lived sometimes at Stafford and elsewhere; but mostly in the families of the eminent clergymen of England of whom he was much beloved.'"

With regard to this "little property near Stafford," Mr. R. B. Marston says—

> "If he ever resided at or near Stafford, it was most probably on the property referred to in his Will as 'a farme or land nere to Stafford; which I bought of Mr. Walter Noell.' The house on this property is shown in the plate entitled 'Walton's house at Shallowford.'[1] While making some inquiries at Stafford, the most interesting relic I came across was a note by Walton referring to this farm and to the Mr. Noel mentioned in his Will; of this note I have had a *facsimile* made from a photograph by Mr. Flamark, kindly

[1] I may mention here that all the *copper plates*, fifty-three in number, contained in the *Lea and Dove* edition, were destroyed when that work was completed. The plates were converted into very pretty little copper boxes, which Mr. Marston had made and presented to his friends. I have his permission to reproduce three of the plates in a reduced form.

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lent to me by Mr. Alderman Shallcross, of Stafford; it appears a little difficult to read at first chiefly owing to the letter *h* being made like a German with loop below the line. I read the note thus:

"Note that I have [in hand?] besyde this lease two assurances past to me of the land in Halfhed. Since the first assurance, Mr. Walter Noell has sould all his land in Halfhed and elsewhere, (after his death) but Mr. [? sd^e. for said] Martin Noell, now note, that if ever Mr. Martin Noell's heirs come to lay clame unto my land in Halfhed, this lease intytells me to all their land. And note that noe other can lay any clame to it. So that I think my folks to have an undoubted tytell.

"IZAAK WALTON.

"*Oct.* 23, 1676.

"Note that I have now had peaceable possetion of it—22 years."

This property Walton left to his son Izaak, and in the event, as happened, of his death without issue, to the Corporation of Stafford "for the good and benefit of some of the said town"; and if the Corporation of Stafford "shall prove so negligent

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note

That I haue ~~[illegible]~~ besyde this lese, two asurances past to me of the land in halfhed. since the first asurance mr walter noett has sould att his land in halfhed and elsewhere, (after his deth) vnt Sr Martin noett. now note. that if euer Sr Martin noetts heares come to lay clame vnto my land in halfhed, this lese intytells me to att their land. And note that noe other can lay any clame to it.

so that I think my selfe to haue an vndoubted tytell.

Izaak: walton
octo3. 23. 1676.

note that I haue now had peaceable possetion of it - 22. yeares

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J.M. Hamank pro facit 1862

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IZAAK WALTON'S HOUSE AT SHALLOWFORD NR. SHEFFIELD

(*Left by his will for the benefit of the poor of Stafford*)

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or dishonest as not to employ the rent by me given as intended" . . . the property was to go to the town of Ecleshall. Although the estate has not been forfeited by the Corporation of Stafford, complaints have now and then been made that they have not always fulfilled the terms of the trust.

Mr. Alderman Shallcross supplied Mr. R. B. Marston with a long account of a visit he made to Walton's cottage at Shallowford in May, 1887, from which I take the following—

> "The Cottage is situate about five minutes' walk from Norton Bridge Station. . . . From this lowly abode Walton went forth at sunrise with his familiar friend Bryan Lane, with whom, and a book, he tells us
>
> 'He loiter'd long days near Shawford brook.'
>
> In the merry month of May the vicinity of Walton's Cottage must have been in his days a charming spot—secluded and beautiful—with nothing to disturb the pervading stillness but the singing of the birds or the musical ripple of Shawford Brook."

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But hear his own words—

THE ANGLER'S WISH

I in these flowery meads would be,
These crystal streams should solace me,
To whose harmonious bubbling noise
I with my angle would rejoice,
Sit here and see the turtle dove,
Court his chaste mate to acts of love :
Or on that bank, feel the west wind,
Breathe health and plenty ; please my mind
To see sweet dewdrops kiss these flowers,
And then, wash'd off by April showers ;
Here hear my Kenna sing a song ;
There see a blackbird feed her young,
Or a leverock build her nest ;
Here give my weary spirits rest.
And raise my low-pitch'd thoughts above
Earth, or what poor mortals love ;
Thus free from lawsuits and the noise
Of princes' courts I would rejoice,
Or with my Bryan and a book
Loiter long days by Shawford brook,[1]
There sit by him and eat my meat,
There see the sun both rise and set ;
There bid good morning to next day,
There meditate my time away,
And angle on, and beg to have
A quiet passage to a welcome grave.

---

[1] Apart from Mr. Bowles's "Traditional Authority" (see Part I. Chap. iv.) there is no direct evidence that Walton ever did reside in a cottage near Stafford except as an

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occasional visitor—but Mr. Bowles's statement that he did reside there for more than a year in company with George Morley cannot be swept away. The probabilities are quite in favour of it, and that the cottage was that described by Mr. Alderman Shallcross, viz. that near where Walton "Loiter'd long days by Shawford brook."

NEAR ILAM, RIVER DOVE

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NEAR CHAILEY, SUSSEX

CHAPTER V

The Walton charity to the borough of Stafford.

THE WALTON CHARITY

is thus entered in the records of the parish of St. Mary at Stafford—

"The Gift of Mr. Isaac Walton, borne in ye Burrough of Stafford. A worthy and generous benefactor to this Burrough as followeth.

"*First* ye said Mr. Walton in his life tyme gave a garden of eight shillings a yeare in ye possession of Widdow Tildesley to buy coales for ye poore yearely about Christmas.

"*Also* ye said Mr. Walton in his life tyme gave 22 pounds to build a stone wall about

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STAFFORD

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St. Chad's church yard in this Burrough, and also set forth 9 apprentices, and gave to each five pounds, viz.—

Samuel Henshaw.	Francis Batley.	Richard Lees.
Richard Hanson.	John Boulton.	George Sutton.
Daniel Bullock.	James Eaton.	Adam Hubball.

The said Mr. Walton at his death gave by his Will to this Burrough one Messuage or Tenement in Shalford in this County wth all the lands thereto belonging, of the yearly value of £20 10*s.* 6*d.*, besides taxes and repairs to the use hereafter as in and by his Will is mentioned, viz.—

"I would have and doe give 10 pounds of the said rent to bind out yeareley 2 boys ye sonns of honest and poore parents to be apprentices to some tradesmen or handicraft men to ye intent ye said boys may ye better afterwards gett their owne living. And I doe also giue 5 pounds yeareley out of ye said rent to be given to some maid servant y^t^ hath attained ye age of 21 yeares not less and dwelt long in one service or to some honest poore man's daughter y^t^ hath attained to y^t^ age to bee paid her at or on ye day of her marriage. And this being done my Will is that what rent

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> shall remaine of ye said farme or land shall be disposed of as followeth. First I doe give yeareley 20 shillings to bee by the Major of Stafford and those that shall collect the said rent and dispose of it as I have or shall hereafter direct. And that what money or rent shall remain undisposed of shall be employed to buy coles for some poore people that shall most neede them in the said town; the said coales to bee delivered in the last week in January or every first weeke in February. *I say then because I take that tyme to bee the hardest and most pincheinge tyme with poore people.*"

The words in italic are characteristic, as indeed is the whole bequest of the good old man. The reward to the maidservant who has "dwelt long in one service" would seem to indicate that the great "domestic question" was not unknown in Walton's time.

In 1808 the yearly rent of Walton's farm was £80. In 1827 it appears to have been about the same value. In the Chantry treasurer's account for the *half-year* ending 1858 this gift is only £32 19*s.* 4*d.* (or probably for the whole year

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double that amount, say £65 18*s.* 8*d.*), a considerable falling off, which is curious, seeing that part of the land had been purchased by the L. & N. W. Railway, and the sale must have been badly managed if it did not produce enough to keep up the usual rental of about £80 a year.

The property has now, like all other charities, been taken over by the Charity Commissioners; but the governing body is instructed, as a "special trust," to apply the £5 for a maidservant or poor man's daughter and the £35 for coals for the poor yearly, for these specific purposes.

NEAR ILAM, RIVER DOVE

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NEAR BAKEWELL, RIVER WYE

CHAPTER VI

Walton's second marriage—Date and place of marriage suggested by inscription on a *dower copper*—The Ken family—Thomas Ken, his age at time of his sister's marriage—The old Prayer-Book register of births, etc.—Removal to Clerkenwell, 1644—Residence at Stafford 1648, Dr. Morley with them—Last date of residence in Clerkenwell, 1661—Walton and the "Lesser George"—Worsone Farme, Stafford—At Worcester—With Bishop Morley—Death of his wife there, 1662.

WALTON'S SECOND MARRIAGE

I HAVE already referred to this marriage in the preceding sketch of Thomas Ken (Part I.). There it is shown that Anne Ken was *half-sister* of Bishop Ken. As a matter of fact she died long before he became bishop, and so did her husband, Izaak Walton. I think the facts may be stated in this way. Anne, who was born in 1612, was one of three children of Thomas Ken by his *first* wife (Anne, Jane, and Thomas;

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the latter died *young*); and that all the other children, *nine* in number, were born between 1626 and 1640. This second wife of Thomas Ken the elder died March 19, 1640. The list of births which I have given from a pedigree supplied by C. G. Young, Esq., *York Herald*, to Mr. Bowles (Part I. Chap. i.) *omits Thomas Ken*, who was born in 1637. So far, I think, the births, deaths, and marriages may be taken as correct.

It was about the year 1646, says Mr. Marston, after having lost his first wife in 1640 (the same year that Ken, then three years old, lost his mother), Walton married Anne, daughter of Thomas Ken the elder. We have no information as to the place where the marriage took place or the exact date of it.[1] All the biographers of Walton, one following the other, speak of the Ken family as one of ancient extraction, and, says Dr. Zouch, "they were united by alliance with

[1] *Notes and Queries* (6th series, xii. p. 326) mentions a sale of oak furniture at Worcester, October 10, 1884. The auctioneers described a curious *dower coffer* said to have come from the cathedral at Worcester, on the centre panel of which was inscribed—

"Izaak Walton and Ann Ken was joyned together in holie wedlock on ye eve of Saint Gregory, Ano. MDCXLVII. dom." (Eve of St. Gregory, March 11, 1647), presumably at Worcester.

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several noble houses, and had possessed a very plentiful fortune for many generations, having been known by the name of The Kens of Ken's Place, Somersetshire."

Walton was fifty-three years old at the time of this second marriage, his wife being thirty-two. At that time the future Bishop of Bath and Wells was about nine years old. That the marriage life of Walton and his "Kenna" was a very happy one is universally acknowledged, and is shown no less by Walton's own touching inscription on her monument, than by the testimony of her friend George Morley, Bishop of Winchester. There can be no doubt that after this marriage "Kenna" continued to take charge of her little brother Thomas.

The births of this family as registered in the old Prayer-Book have already been quoted verbatim (Part I. Chap. i.). The first birth was March 11, 1648, the last September, 1651.

Walton's name disappeared from the St. Dunstan's books after August, 1644. It is not unlikely that he then made Clerkenwell his headquarters, though evidently he was moving about, for we find him with his wife residing for at least a whole year at their cottage near Stafford; the story of Dr. Morley's residence there with them during

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1648–9 has already been told. The last time his name is found on the Clerkenwell books is an entry of his contribution to the Poor Rate in November, 1661. Anne, the future Mrs. Hawkins and mother of Mr. Hawkins, first biographer of Ken, was a babe in arms when Morley visited them in 1648.

It seems quite clear that Walton must have been at least on a visit to Stafford in September, 1651, when the following incident occurred, as related in Ashmole's "History of the Order of the Garter."

Walton and the Lesser George

"Soon after the battle of Worcester, September 3, 1651, when Cromwell defeated the King with a loss of six thousand men, and all their baggage, a collar of S S, and a garter which belonged to his Majesty, formed part of the spoil, and were brought to the Parliament a few days afterwards by Major Corbet, who was despatched by Cromwell with an account of his victory. The Sovereign's *lesser George* was, however, preserved by Colonel Blague, who, having taken shelter at Blore Pipe House, two miles from Eccleshall in Staffordshire, then

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> the residence of Mr. George Barlow, delivered the jewel into that gentleman's custody. In the ensuing week, Mr Barlow carried it to Robert Milward, Esquire, who was at that time a prisoner in the Garrison of Stafford, and Milward shortly afterwards gave it into the "trusty hands" of Izaak Walton to convey to Colonel Blague, who was confined by the Parliament in the Tower of London. It is said that Blague, 'considering it had already passed so many dangers, was persuaded it could yet secure one hazardous attempt of his own'; and having made his escape from the Tower, he had the gratification of restoring the *George* to the King."

Ashmole relates this anecdote from the statements of Blague, Milward, and Walton, and speaks of the latter as "a man well known, and as well beloved of all good men, and will be better known to posterity by his ingenious pen in the 'Lives' of Dr. Donne, Sir Henry Wotton, Mr. Richard Hooker, and Mr. George Herbert."

It cannot be doubted, then, that Walton was at his place in the neighbourhood of Stafford in 1648 and in 1651.

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It is also stated in a deed to which Walton was a party wherein he was, in December, 1658, described as "Isaacke Walton of Worson Farme, in the Parish of St. Marye's in Stafford, in the County of Stafford, Gent."

I venture to indulge the theory that at the end of 1661, having given up his residence in Clerkenwell, and finding his Kenna's health failing, he took her on a visit to their old friend George Morley, who was then Bishop of Worcester, and that during that visit she died there, April 17, 1662. This would show why she was buried in Worcester Cathedral, so far from all her relatives. An account of her death, and the monument in Worcester Cathedral, will be found in Chap. ii. p. 16, Part I.

RIVER DOVE, THORPE

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NEAR TOTTENHAM, RIVER LEA

CHAPTER VII

"The Compleat Angler" first edition published, 1653—Did Walton carry on any business in Clerkenwell?—Fishing in the Lea and New River, and elsewhere—Perils of long journey to Stafford—Shallowford—Walton and Cotton—Their first acquaintance—Cotton's "Complete Angler" issued in conjunction with Walton's as Part II., 1686.

PUBLICATION OF "THE COMPLEAT ANGLER"

IT was during Walton's residence in Clerkenwell that the first edition of "The Compleat Angler" was published (1653), and we may easily imagine him as often walking to the printing office of his friend and publisher, Richard Marriot, in St. Dunstan's Churchyard, Fleet Street, to look over the proofs and arrange about the illustrations.

There does not appear to be any record as to whether Walton carried on any kind of business

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Being a Diſcourſe of

FISH and FISHING,

Not unworthy the peruſal of moſt *Anglers.*

Simon Peter *ſaid, I go a fiſhing: and they ſaid, We alſo will go with thee.* John 21.3.

FACSIMILE OF TITLE-PAGE OF FIRST EDITION OF "THE COMPLEAT ANGLER"

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in Clerkenwell or not. I would very much prefer to know that he had retired on a modest competency and that in Clerkenwell he was a gentleman at large, free to go and come as he pleased. Rather than dabbling in the petty details of business I want to picture him, fully equipped with rod and basket, starting off on "a fine fresh May morning," stretching his legs up Tottenham Hill and so on towards Ware; and calling, in company with *Venator* and *Auceps*, to take their "morning's draught at the Thatch'd House in Hodsden"; or else starting off on a far more serious undertaking, the long and perilous journey to Stafford. Such a journey, from London to Stafford or from Stafford to London, must indeed have been difficult in those marauding days when the roads and villages were full of rough soldiers flushed with success or reckless from defeat. Robbery one might expect from Cavalier and Roundhead alike under such circumstances, the only difference being that in one case it was most probably accompanied by an oath, and in the other by a prayer for the regeneration of the victim.

While he was staying at Shallowford, during these frequent visits there his occupation was doubtless mostly beside the Derwent or the Dove

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or the Wye. Young Charles Cotton, then a young man of twenty-three or twenty-four, may have met him on these excursions soon after he had read his book, and began the friendship which lasted so many years.

Walton and Cotton, their First Acquaintance

Mr. R. B. Marston, himself an enthusiastic angler, says—

> "When Walton and Cotton first met is uncertain; but as Sir Harris Nicolas points out, Walton was evidently acquainted with Cotton's father, it is then probable that the two friends met first in London, and that their common love of angling led to many a pleasant discourse on the art. Walton would instruct his young friend on the mysteries of bait-fishing of all kinds, and discourse in his own genial and discursive manner of fishing in particular, and all the world in general. Cotton doubtless painted in poetic language the natural beauties of Dove Dale, Beresford Dale, in which was his home, and the fascination of fly-fishing for trout and grayling; it

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is quite certain that he persuaded the old London angler to pay him a visit, which was several times repeated. Then when Walton is preparing his fifth edition, what more natural than that his experiences, under Cotton's guidance, in fly-fishing should lead him to desire to make his work more perfect in this branch of the art, and accept his fly-fishing friend's offer to supply the deficiency. No practical fly-fisher and angler for trout and grayling can read Cotton's clear, simple and practical directions without feeling intuitively that he was a perfect master of the art as practised in his time, and killed more of these fish with the fly than any angler before him, or for a long time afterwards. I have often fished the water which Walton and Cotton fished in the neighbourhood of Hartington, and down through Beresford Dale, and its lovely sylvan scenery, and on past his favourite *Pike Pool* through Dove Dale—the most exquisite little Dale in this country—and I never fished it without thinking of Cotton's directions as to fishing fine and far off, and using fine tackle, for the water is generally crystal clear, and the trout and grayling both keen-eyed and

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fastidious. The single hair next the hook which Cotton recommends is to this day the most sportsmanlike link between the hook and the main line that an angler can use; I say most sportsmanlike because while it may be as fine as drawn gut, it is not so strong, and consequently requires more skill in the handling. But trout are not so plentiful now as in Cotton's time, at any rate anglers are far more numerous, and although a single hair line is still considered by very many North Country anglers as the best, I always use and always advise the use of fine gut, simply because you may make a basket with gut while you are killing a brace or two on hair. . . .

"The genuine esteem and friendship in which Walton and Cotton held each other is one of the most charming episodes in literary history, and it says much for the influence of our art that it should so have united the quiet, good old London citizen with Charles Cotton, a man who, judging from his writings, must have been, to say the least of it, somewhat of a Bohemian. It is a thousand pities that Walton, who has left us some of the most perfect

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> biographies in the language, gives us such scanty references to his own life; one would have liked to have read descriptions from his own pen of his journeys to Derbyshire to enjoy the hearty hospitality of his friend; of his fishing there in the Dove and Manifold, of his visits to his property at Stafford during the Civil War, and of his life at Winchester; for the little we do know of him makes us wish to know more."

"The Compleat Angler" having in twenty-three years gone through four editions, Walton in the year 1686, when he was in his eighty-third year, was preparing a fifth, with additions, for the press; when Mr. Cotton wrote his *second part*. He had submitted the manuscript to Walton for his perusal, who returned it with his approval and a few marginal strictures; in that year they were published together. Mr. Cotton's book had the title, "*The Complete Angler, being instructions how to angle for a trout or a greyling in a clear stream*, Part II.," and it has ever since been received as a second part of Walton's book.

In his dedication to Philip Earl of Chesterfield of the third edition of the "Reliquiæ Wottonianæ,"

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dated February 27, 1672, Walton refers to "my friend Mr. Charles Cotton," and in a poem dated January 17, 1672–3, we find Charles Cotton addressing his "old and most worthy friend, Mr. Izaak Walton, on his 'Life of Dr. Donne,' etc." In this poem Cotton speaks of Walton as "the best friend I now or ever knew," the two last verses running as follows—

"In which estate, I ask no more of fame.
Nor other monument of honour claim
Than that of your true friend to advance my name.

"And if your many merits shall have bred
An abler pen, to write your life when dead,
I think an honester cannot be read."

(Charles Cotton.)

January 17, 1672.

NEAR LONGSTONE, RIVER WYE

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NEAR UCKFIELD

CHAPTER VIII

The Right Worshipful Mr. Offley, dedication to—Not mentioned in second edition—Nat. and R. Roe—Walton invited by Dr. Morley to reside with him, 1662—His residence was really with Dr. Hawkins—Lease of premises in Paternoster Row, 1662—Premises burnt in great fire, 1666—Lease renewed, 1670.

BETWEEN the years 1651 and 1661 we know little of Walton's doings, beyond some scattered references to be found in his works that had already been published during this period, and the fact of the publication of the first edition of "The Compleat Angler" in the year 1653. It is curious, as Sir Harris Nicolas points out, that the Mr. Offley to whom Walton dedicated his first edition, who died in 1658, is not referred to in the next edition, published in 1661, although the deaths of Nat. and R. Roe are pathetically alluded to. In the first edition he spoke of "the days and times when honest Nat. and R. R. go a-fishing together." In

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the edition of 1661 he says, "In such days and times as I have laid aside business and gone a-fishing with honest Nat. and R. Roe; and they are gone, and with them most of my pleasant hours, even as a shadow that passeth away and returns not."

After the loss of his second wife in 1662, Walton seems to have become an unsettled wanderer. His old friend Dr. Morley, whom he and his wife had visited at Worcester, was now translated to Winchester. It was at this time that the good Bishop invited him to spend the remainder of his days in the Episcopal residence.[1] Here his time was happily occupied either in writing those delightful biographies of Great Divines (to which I will refer again), or, as a matter of course, fishing in the Itchen and other prolific trout streams near Winchester.

Although it is quite evident that Walton had left London for good in 1662, he does not appear

[1] Dr. Zouch says, "Walton and his daughter had apartments constantly reserved for them in the houses of Dr. Morley, Bishop of Winchester, and Dr. Ward, Bishop of Salisbury." Walton's real home in Winchester was with his daughter, wife of Dr. Hawkins, in the Canon's house near to the one occupied by Ken, where he died. The Episcopal residence was not completed till after Walton's death.

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to have given up all connection with it. In December, 1662, he obtained from his friend Gilbert Sheldon, Bishop of London, a lease of a newly erected building adjoining a house called "The Cross Keys" in Paternoster Row for forty years at the yearly rental of forty shillings, which premises were burnt in the great fire of London.

On July 1, 1670, Walton presented a petition, in which he is described as "Izaak Walton, gentleman," to the *Court of Judicature for determination of differences touching houses burnt in London;* stating that the premises in Paternoster Row, which he held from Gilbert, late Bishop of London, were burnt in the late fire, and that he wished to rebuild them, "so as he may be encouraged thereto by an increase of years to his term in being, and abatement of rent as the Court shall see is meet." The Court decreed that Walton should rebuild the premises, having his lease extended to sixty years at the old rent, and paying the arrears then due. With reference to this property he says in his Will—

> "First I give my son-in-law, Doc[r] Hawkins and to his wife, to them I give my tytell and right of or in a part of a howse and shop in

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Pater-noster-rowe in London; which I hold by lease from the Lord Bishop of London for about 50 years to come. And I doe also give to them all my right and tytell of or to a howse in Chansery Lane, London; where Mrs. Greinwood now dwelleth, in which is now about 16 years to come. I give these two leases to them, they saving my Executor from all damage concerning the same."

RICHMOND BRIDGE

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BARCOMBE MILL, RIVER OUSE

CHAPTER IX

Death of Izaak Walton—Inscription on tombstone—Walton's will.

DEATH OF IZAAK WALTON

IZAAK WALTON died at Winchester on December 15, 1683, during the memorable frost of that year, at the Prebendal house of his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins, whom, as he says in his Will, he "loved as his own son." It was his express desire that his burial might be near the place of his death, privately, and free from any ostentation or charge. He was buried in Winchester Cathedral, in Prior Silksteed's Chapel; a large black marble slab in the floor of the chapel marks his resting-place. "The morning sun falls directly on it, reminding the contemplative man of

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the mornings when he was for so many years up and abroad with his angle."

The following is a copy of the inscription on Walton's tombstone—

Here resteth the body of
MR. ISAAC WALTON
WHO DYED THE 15TH OF DECEMBER
1683

Alas hee's gone before
Gone to returne no more!
Our panting Breasts aspire
After their aged Sire,
Whose well spent life did last
Full ninety years and past,
But now he hath begun
That which will ne're be done
Crown'd with eternall blisse;
We wish our souls with his.

VOTIS MODESTIS SIC FLERUNT LIBERI.

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WALTON-ON-THAMES

Will of Isaac Walton, Senior.
[P.C.C. 24 Hare.]

August the ninth one Thousand six hundred eighty three. In the Name of God, Amen. I, Izaak Walton the elder of Winchester being this present day in the ninetyeth yeare of my age and in perfect memory for which praysed be God but considering how suddainly I may be deprived of both doe therefore make this my last will and testament as followeth and first I doe declare my beleife to be that there is only one God who hath made the whole world and mee and all mankind to whome I shall give an account of all my actions which are not to be justified but I hope pardoned for the merrits of my saviour Jesus and because the proffession of Christianity does at this time seeme to be subdivided into papist and protestant I take it at least to be convenient to declare my beleife to be in all points of Faith as the Church of England now professeth and this I doe the rather because of a very long and very true friendship with some of the Roman Church and for my worldly estate (which I have neither got by falsehood or flattery

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or the extreame cruelty of the law of this nation) I doe hereby give and bequeath it as followeth. First I give my sonne in law Doct. Hawkins and to his wife to them I give all my title & right of or in a part of a house and shop in Paternoster rowe in London which I hold by lease from the Lord Bishop of London for about fifty yeares to come and I doe alsoe give to them all my right and title of or to a house in Chansery Lane London wherein Mrs. Greinwood now dwelleth in which is now about sixteene yeares to come I give these two leases to them they saveing my Executor from all damage concerning the same and I give to my sonne Izaak all my right and title to a lease of Norington Farme which I hold from the Lord Bishop of Winton and I doe alsoe give him all my right and title to a farme or land neare to Stafford which I bought of Mr. Walter Noell I say I give it to him and his heires for ever but upon the condicion following namely if my sonne shall not marry before he shall be of the age of forty and one yeares or being married shall dye before the said age and leave noe sonne to inherit the said Farme or Land or if his sonne or sonnes shall not live to obtaine the age of twenty and one yeares to dispose otherwayes of it then I give the said Farme or land to the Towne or Corporation of Stafford (in which I was borne) for the good and benefit of some of the said towne as I shall direct and as followeth but first note that it is at this present time rented for twenty one pounds tenn shillings a yeare (and is like to hold the said rent if care be taken to keepe the barne and houseing in repaire) and I wood have and doe give ten pound of the said rent to bind out yearly two boyes the sonns of honest and poore parents to be aprentizes to

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some Tradesmen or handycraft men to the intent the said boyes may the better afterward get their owne liveing and I doe alsoe give five pound yearly out of the said rent to some maide servant that hath attained the age of twenty and one yeare (not lesse) and dwelt long in one service or to some honest poore mans daughter that hath attained to that age to be paid her at or on the day of her marriage and this being done my will is what rent shall remaine of the said Farme or land shall be disposed of as followeth: First I doe give twenty shillings yearly to be spent by the Mayor of Stafford and those that shall collect the said rent and dispose of it as I have and shall hereafter direct and that what mony or rent shall remaine undisposed of shall be imployed to buy Coales for some poore people that shall most need them in the said towne, the said Coales to be delivered the first week in January or in first weeke of February I say then because I take that time to be the hardest and most pinching times with poore people and God reward those that shall doe this without partialitie and with honestie and a good conscience and if the said Mayor and others of the said towne of Stafford shall prove soe negligent or dishonest as not to imploy the rent by mee given as intended and exprest in this my will (which God forbid) then I give the said rents and profitts of the said Farme or land to the Towne and cheif magastraits or governors of Ecleshall to be disposed by them in such manner as I have ordered the disposall of it by the towne of Stafford the said Farme or land being near the towne of Ecleshall and I give to my sonne in law Doctor Hawkins (whome I love as my owne sonn) and to my daughter his wife and my sonne Izaak to each of them a ring with these

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words or motto—love my memory I.W. obiet.—to the Lord Bishop of Winton a ring with this motto—a mite for a million, I.W. obiet.—and to the friendes hereafter named I give to each of them a ring with this motto—A friends farewell, I.W. obiet.—and my will is the said rings be delivered within forty dayes after my death and that the price or value of all the said rings shall be thirteen shillings and four pence a peece. I give to Doctor Hawkins Doctor Donnes Sermons which I have heard preacht and read with much content: to my sonn Izaak I give Doctor Sibbs his soules conflict and to my daughter his brused reed desireing them to read them soe as to be well acquainted with them and I alsoe give unto her all my bookes at Winchester and Droxford and whatever in those two places are or I can call mine except a Trunck of Linnen which I give to my sonne Izaak but if he doe not live to marry or make use of it then I give the same to my Granddaughter Anne Hawkins and I give my daughter Doctor Halls works which be now at Farnham to my sonn Izaak I give all my bookes not yet given at Farnham Castell and a deske of prints and pictures, alsoe a Cabinet[1] nere my bedstead in which are some little thinges that he will value tho of no great worth and my will and desire is that he will be kind to his Aunt Beachame and his Aunt Rose Ken by allowing the first about fifty shillings a year in or for Bacon and Cheese (not more) and paying four pound a yeare toward the boarding of her sonnes dyet to Mr. John Whitehead. For his Aunt Ken I desire him to be kind to her according to her necessity and his owne

[1] This is probably the hanging cabinet of which we have given a picture.

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abilitie and I commend one of her children to breed up (as I have said I intended to doe) if he shall be able to doe it as I know he will for they be good folke. I give to Mr. John Darbishire the sermons of Mr. Anthony Faringdon or of Dr. Lunderson which my executor thinks fitt to my servant Thomas Edghill five pound in mony and all my Clothes linnen and wollen (except one sute of Clothes which I give to Mr. Holinshed and forty shillings) if the said Thomas be my servant at my death if not my Clothes only; and I give my old friend Mr. Richard Marriot tenn pound in mony to be paid him within three months after my death and I desire my sonne to shew kindnesse to him if he shall neede and my sonn can spare it; and I doe hereby will and declare my sonn Izaak to be my sole executor of this my last will and testament, and Doctor Hawkins to see that he performes it which I doubt not but he will. I desire my buriall may be neare the place of my death and free from any ostentation or charge but privately this I make to be my last will (to which I shall only add the Codicell for rings) this sixteenth day of August One Thousand six hundred eighty three. Izaak Walton Witnesse to this will. The Rings I give are as on the other side.

To my brother Jon Kenn, to my sister his wife to my brother Doctor Ken to my sister Pye to Mr. Francis Morley to Mr. George Vernon to his wife to his three daughter to Mistris Nelson to Mr. Richard Walton to Mr. Palmer to Mr. Taylor to Mr. Thomas Garrard to the Lord Bishop of Sarum to Mr. Rede his servant to my cozen Dorothy Kenrick to my Cozen Lewin to Mr. Walter Higgs to Mr. Charles Cotton to Mr. Rich. Marryot 22 [*sic*] to my brother Beacham to my sister his wife to the

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Lady Anne How to Mrs. King Doctor Philips wife to Mr. Valentine Harecourt to Mrs. Eliza Johnson to Mrs. Mary Rogers to Mrs. Eliza Milward to Mrs. Dorothy Wallop to Mr. Will. Milward of Christchurch Oxford to Mr. John Darbesheire to Mrs. Vnedvill to Mrs. Rock to Mr. Peter White to Mr. John Lloyde to my Cozen Greinsell widdow Mrs. Dalbin must not be forgotten. 16. Izaak Walton Note that severall lines are blotted out of this will for they were twice repeated and that this will is now signed and sealed this twenty and fourth day of October One thousand six hundred eighty three in the presence of us Witnesse—Abra. Markland, Jos. Taylor Thomas Crawley.

[Proved at London 4 February 1683/4.]

NEAR WALTON-ON-THAMES

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Picture of an Izaak Walton Memorial Ring

With reference to the memorial rings mentioned in the Will, I have pleasure in giving the following note by Mr. R. B. Marston in the *Fishing Gazette*, and a photograph of the ring (considerably enlarged) kindly given to him by Miss Roland—

Every admirer of Izaak Walton knows that in his will dated August 9, 1683, he left memorial rings for relatives and

ENLARGED ILLUSTRATION OF AN IZAAK WALTON MEMORIAL RING

(A bit of "Piscator's" hair is cased in the centre surrounded by a circlet of garnets.)

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friends. I have never seen one of these rings, but Mr. Percy Wadham, hearing of one and knowing my interest in Walton, found out the address of the owner, Miss Rowland, of Briar Knoll, Lake, near Sandown.

Miss Rowland has very kindly sent me a photograph—enlarged to show the detail better—the ring being of the ordinary size. The ring was bequeathed to Miss Rowland by her father, and her sister, Miss E. J. Rowland, tells me that her great-great-grandmother was a Walton (of Devizes), and married a General Humphries. Miss R. has promised to get me some further information about this most interesting relic, of which I have never previously seen an illustration. Of course, Miss R. will not part with it.

(R. B. Marston.)

FOX AND HOUNDS, CHINGFORD

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BERESFORD HALL

(*From picture by Stanfield*)

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THAMES, NEAR RICHMOND

CHAPTER X

Walton and Cotton's fishing-house—My visits to it—Doubtful whether Walton ever saw it—Walton's letter to Cotton, 1676—Unpublished letter.

WALTON AND COTTON'S FISHING-HOUSE IN BERESFORD DALE

MR. R. B. MARSTON says, "Every angler, at least every trout and grayling angler, should make one grateful pilgrimage to the Fishing-house erected by Cotton in 1676, and referred to by him in the conversation between Piscator and Viator."

I, the present writer, have made two pilgrimages to this Fishing-house, once in 1884 and again in 1902, and it was with a feeling of delight almost akin to veneration; nevertheless I have been forced to the conclusion that, as far as I can discover,

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IZAAK WALTON *never saw this Fishing-house* in its complete form; my reason for arriving at this conclusion is given in my little book "Dove Dale Revisited," published in 1902. The matter seems to me to be of some interest, for it is naturally assumed that "Walton and Cotton's Fishing-house" was a place where the two anglers may have hob-nobbed together for years.

That Izaak Walton could never have seen it is partly shown in the following conversation between "Piscator" and "Viator" (Piscator is Charles Cotton).

> "PISC. I will tell you that my house stands upon the margin of one of the finest rivers for trouts and grayling in England; that I have lately built a little Fishing-house upon it dedicated to anglers; over the door of which you will see the two first letters of my father Walton's name and mine twisted in cipher; that you shall lye in the same bed he has sometimes been contented with.
>
> "VIATOR. Stay; what's here over the door? *piscatoribus sacrum.* Why then I perceive I have some title here, for I am one of them, though one of the worst; and here below it

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is the cifer, too, you spoke of, and 'tis prettily conceived. Has my master Walton ever been here to see it, for it seems new built?

"PISC. Yes, he saw it cut in the stone before it was set up; but never in the posture it now stands; for the house was but in building when he was last here, and not raised so high as the arch of the dore, and I am afraid he will not see it yet, for he has lately writ me word he doubts his coming down this summer, which, I assure you, was the worst news he could possibly send me."

The date on the building is 1674 (it was apparently not completed till 1676). In that singular letter of Walton's to Cotton, thanking him for his "very pleasant, useful discourse," it will be seen that he refers to the Fishing-house. The letter is so interesting and *apropos* that I make no apology for giving it in full. It was written in 1676, when Walton was in his eighty-third year.

"To my most honoured friend, Charles Cotton, Esq.

"SIR,—You now see I have return'd you your very pleasant and useful discourse of the art of *Flie fishing*. Printed just as it

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was sent me; for I have been so obedient to your desires as to endure all the praises you have ventur'd to fix upon me in it, and when I have thankt you for them as the efforts of an undissembled love, then let me tell you, *sir*, that I will really endeavour to live up to the character you have given of me, if there were no other reason; yet for this alone, that you that love me so well, and always think what you speak, may not, for my sake, suffer by a mistake in your judgment.

"And, Sir, I have ventur'd to fill a part of your margin, by way of Paraphrase, for the Readers clearer understanding the situation, both of your *Fishing-house* and the pleasantness of that you dwell in. An I have ventur'd also to give a copy of verses, that you were pleas'd to send me, now some years past; in which he may see a good Picture of both; and so much of your own mind to, as will make any Reader that is blest with a Generous Soul, to love you the better. I confess that for doing this, you may justly judg me too bold; if you do I will say so too; and so far commute for my offence; that though I be more than a hundred miles from you, and in

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THE WALTON AND COTTON FISHING-HOUSE ON THE DOVE

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the eighty-third year of my age, yet I will forget both, and next month begin a Pilgrimage to beg your pardon, for I would dye in your favour; and till then, will live,

"Sir,

"Your most affectionate

"Father and Friend,

"IZAAK WALTON.

"London, April 29, 1676."

"There is no evidence in either volume to show that Walton ever did perform this pilgrimage."

UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF IZAAK WALTON

(*Notes and Queries*, 2nd Series, No. 20, May 17, 1856)

The following is a copy of a letter from Izaak Walton, of which the original autograph is among the MSS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin—

"S^{r},—I came well from Winton to London, about 3 weikes past: at that time I left Do^{r} Hawkins well; and my dafter (after a greate danger of child berth) not very well, but by

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a late letter from him, I heare they be boeth in good health.

"The doctor did tell me a gowne and some bookes of y^{rs} were in danger to be lost, though he had made (at a distance) many inquiries after them, and intreated others to do so, but yet ineffectually. He theirfore intreated me to undertake a search; and I have done it so successfully that uppon Thursday the 24th instant they were d–d to that letter carryer that inns at the Rose in Smithfield, and with them the Life of Mr. George Herbert (and 3 others) wrapt up in a paper and directed to you at Rodon Temple, the booke not tyed to the bundell, but of itselfe. The bundell cost me 3$^{s.}$ 8$^{d.}$ carryage to London, and I hope it will now come safe in your hands. What I have to write more is my heartie wishes for y^{r} hapines, for I am

"Y^{r} affec. friend and Servant,

"IZAAK WALTON.

"Nov. 20, 1670.

"If you incline to write to me direct your letter to be left at Mr. Grinsells, a grocer in

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King Streite in Westminster. Much doe you with the booke, wch I wish better.

" For my worthy friend M^r^
" Edward Ward,
" att Rodon Temple, nere vnto
" Lester.

" Att Mr. Babingtons
att Rodon Temple."

NEAR BUXTON, RIVER WYE.

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ISLEWORTH ON THAMES

CHAPTER XI

Industry of old biographers—They did not exhaust the field of discovery—Rev. Canon John Vaughan propounds an interesting theory—Did Walton ever reside at Droxford?—Mr. G. B. Dewar states Dr. Hawkins was Rector of Droxford—Canon Vaughan discovers proof of it—"Norington Farme" of Walton's will same as Northington Farm of to-day—Three leases discovered by Mr. Dewar—Walton's hanging cabinet—Walton's marriage chest.

NOTWITHSTANDING the indefatigable industry of the old biographers of Walton, such as Sir John Hawkins, Dr. Zouch, Wm. Oldys, and Sir Harris Nicolas, and others, they did not exhaust the field of discovery which the good but mysterious old father of anglers left for his disciples to puzzle themselves over all through the centuries. They did not know, nor did any of us

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know, for example, how Walton passed the last seven years of his life. I have already referred to the fact that in 1676 Charles Cotton pressed him to pay a visit to Beresford Hall, and I have quoted his letter promising to go there (Chap. x.), but we have not a scrap of evidence that he ever did go. That letter was written from *London*, April 29, 1676.

In *Longman's Magazine*, Nov. 1904, the Rev. Canon John Vaughan, Rector of Droxford, propounds a new and interesting theory evolved from Walton's Will—

> "The passage in his will will be remembered—'I also give unto my daughter all my books at Winchester and Droxford, and whatever in those two places are or I can call mine. To my son Izaak I give all my books at Farnham Castell, and a deske of prints and pictures, also a cabinett near my bed's head, in which are some little things that he will value, though of no great worth.' It is evident from this passage that Izaak Walton in his last years had some close connection, not only with Farnham and Winchester, but also with Droxford, a village in the Meon Valley some fourteen miles from the cathedral city. At Farnham, it is clear, he still had his own chamber in the Castle, where he had written the 'Lives' of Hooker and of Herbert, and where he was always sure of a warm

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welcome from his old friend of forty years' standing. At Winchester there was the Canon's house in the venerable Close, near to the one occupied by Dr. Ken, at that time a Prebend of the cathedral, where he lived peacefully with his daughter and Dr. Hawkins, and not, as his biographers have imagined, with Bishop Morley, for Wolvesey Palace, on the building of which the good bishop was engaged, was not finished at the time of Walton's death. But what was his connection with Droxford? To discover this connection at once became the object of the writer when he was appointed Rector of Droxford two years ago. From the ordinary sources of information he could learn nothing. The biographers of Izaak Walton, so far as he is aware, pass over this mention of Droxford in almost total silence. Even Mr. Stapleton Martin makes no reference to it. The word 'Droxford' does not so much as occur in his index. Sir Harris Nicolas does indeed suggest that perhaps Walton had a house or apartments in the village, which from the passage already quoted in the will is abundantly evident. Mr. Dewar, in his Winchester edition of 'The Compleat Angler,' is the first to hint at the true solution, although he admits that he had 'not succeeded in finding out anything about Walton at Droxford.' He states, however, that Dr. Hawkins, besides being Prebendary of Winchester, was also Rector of Droxford. Repeated searches in the episcopal register, alike at Winchester and at the Record Office, produced no evidence that William Hawkins was ever Rector of

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DROXFORD CHURCH, FROM THE RECTORY.

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Droxford. The matter, however, was happily set at rest, only a few weeks ago, by the writer's discovery in one of the Composition Books at the Record Office of the entry of the payments made by 'William Hawkins, S.T.P., in November 1664,' on his institution to the living. The living of Droxford Dr. Hawkins continued to hold, in conjunction with his canonry, to which he had been appointed two years previously, until the time of his death, which occurred in 1691. The fact, then, now fully established, of his son-in-law holding preferment at Droxford as well as at Winchester, may be taken as the undoubted explanation of the connection of those two places in the will of Izaak Walton. With the exception of an occasional visit to Farnham he passed his closing years—

> serene and bright,
> And calm as is a Lapland night,

in the loving care of his daughter and her husband, sometimes in the Close at Winchester, and sometimes in the rambling old Droxford rectory on the banks of the Meon stream.

"And that these visits to Droxford were of more than a mere passing nature may be inferred, not only from the way in which he speaks of his library and belongings, but also from the fact, lately discovered by the writer, that he had more than one intimate friend among the residents there. . . . Among them we find the name of 'Mr. John Darbyshire.' The identity, therefore, of this individual, for

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whom Walton evidently had a great regard, becomes a question of distinct interest as throwing light on the friendships of his last years; so that the feeling of satisfaction which the writer experienced when he discovered that 'Mr John Darbyshire' was Dr. Hawkins's curate at Droxford will easily be imagined. 'Mr. John Darbyshire was Rector of Portland and Curate of Droxford.' At Droxford, as is clear from the registers, he entirely resided, and the chief events in his family history were connected with the place.

"Among the other friends mentioned in his will to whom Walton leaves a ring as 'a friend's farewell' will also be noticed the name of 'Mr. Francis Morley.' He, too, the writer has discovered, was a resident of Droxford, and lies buried in a vault in the north-west corner of Droxford Church, beneath the floor of the baptistry. . . . Francis Morley, as we learn from his marble tablet in the church, was a nephew of the Bishop of Winchester, and this fact doubtless deepened the intimacy between the two men.

"The old rectory is still standing, although somewhat enlarged since the days of Izaak Walton. Part of it, however, remains in exactly the same condition as in the closing years of the seventeenth century. The floors are still boarded with wide planks of oak, and the leaden lattice casements remain. One or two rooms facing south, for the old man was nearing ninety, and doubtless felt the cold mists arising from the river, may not unnaturally be associated with our friend. Perhaps in a corner of the room stood his

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> fishing-rod and tackle, for though age prevented him from visiting his friend Cotton in Dovedale, yet in fine weather he would stroll down the glebe meadows where the bee-orchis grows and try his hand at 'catching trouts' in 'the swift, shallow, clear, pleasant brook' of the Meon.
>
> "JOHN VAUGHAN."

The last discovery, and not the least interesting, is that Izaak Walton, in addition to his farm near Stafford, held the lease of a farm of nearly one thousand acres at Northington, not many miles from Winchester. The full account of this discovery, which was made by that great admirer of Walton and keen angler Mr. G. A. B. Dewar, will be found in his edition of "The Compleat Angler" in two volumes published in 1902.

> "When I first paid attention to the matter," says Mr. Dewar, "it occurred to me that the 'Norington farme' of Walton's time might be the Northington farm of to-day—close by the village of Northington, which is not many miles from Winchester, near the stream that comes down the valley of the Candovers, and flowing through Grange Park joins the other branch of the Itchen by Itchen Stoke. I

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could find, at any rate, no name on the Ordnance maps of Hampshire more similar to Norington than this Northington."

But by some fortunate inspiration Mr. Dewar discovered "that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had at their offices in Whitehall Place three leases dated 1683, 1687, and 1691,[1] being renewals of a lease for twenty-one years, granted in 1679 by the Bishop of Winchester to Izaak Walton in respect of a certain Northington Farm in the Parish of Overton."

Then it dawned upon Mr. Dewar that he was about to "discover a new haunt of Walton's in Hampshire, a haunt overlooked by a hundred editors of the 'Angler,' and in one of the choicest spots in the whole vale of the Test."

* * * * *

Although these leases have been open to the inspection of that mysterious body known as the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for over two centuries, not one of them appears to have immortalised himself by proving Walton's connection with the charming, troutful Test; but perhaps it was as

[1] Seeing that Walton died in 1683, these renewals could not have been granted to him, though possibly to his son.

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well that the discovery should have been reserved for such a good angler and devoted admirer of Walton as Mr. Dewar. But what an added interest it would have given to thousands of anglers who fished the Test had they known that it flowed through land once held by Walton? What an additional interest it will give, or should give, to all who fish the Test now or may have that delight in store for them.

"Norington Farme" is thus mentioned in Walton's Will—

> "And I give to my son Izaak all my right and title to a lease of Norington Farme; which I hold from the Lord Bishop of Winton."

This farm is situated at Overton, near the head waters of the Test and the Itchen—and that Walton must have fished there is beyond doubt—but what strikes one as remarkable is that the date of the *first* lease was 1679, when Walton was eighty-six years old! Of course he may have fished there years before he took the lease.

It is curious that although this farm is named in the will, not one of the previous biographers have any mention of it.

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WALTON'S OLD OAK CABINET OR HANGING CUPBOARD

This cabinet, so touchingly referred to in Izaak Walton's Will, is now in the possession of Mr. Elkin Mathews, the well-known bibliographer of Vigo Street. "Being at Bath," says Mr. Mathews, "in the spring of 1881 . . . I learnt that on April 28, 1881, a well-known firm of auctioneers were to sell 'a fine collection of old oak and antique furniture,' and that the Cabinet was one of the lots. It was thus described—

> '39. Very interesting relic of the Angler Walton, a suspending wall cabinet with cupboard and drawer secretly fastened; the door is sunk and inlaid with fine marqueterie; above, his name, Izaak Walton; and below, date 1672; all the twelve pannels are richly carved in floral designs. From the old Deanery at Winchester.'

After some competition the cupboard was knocked down to me, much to my satisfaction and peace of mind, for sweet was the feeling of possession."

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THE AUMBREY BRACKETED CABINET OR HANGING CUPBOARD

(*The body is* 2 *ft.* 2 *ins. in height; the projections of the back boarding* 10 *ins. above and* 14 *ins. below; the entire length* 4 *ft.* 2 *in.; depth from back to front* 13 *in.; width* 2 *ft.*)

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The reference in the Will runs as follows—

> "To my son Izaak I give all my books (not yet given) at Farnham Castell and a deske of prints and pickters; also a cabinet nere my beds head, in wch are some littell things that he will valew, tho' of no great worth."

The consequence of this unexpected apparition was a series of sonnets which poured in upon the happy possessor. I quote one of them by Dr. Grosart—

"Sacred as legendary relic, this—
And with a touch of tenderer sanctity
For all who look aneath what meets the eye
The Cabinet of Izaak Walton! 'Tis
A thing of beauty in itself, I wis;
Quaint flowers and fruit and fish that lie
In artful order, yet most naturally.
But *his* name! There's the spell and envied bliss
O' the owner. In this chest, by Walton's bed
Suspended, choicest books, methinks have lain;
Before me as I ponder, fancy-led,
Rise Hooker, Herbert, Donne—ne'er to be ta'en
From their high shrine, the 'Lives.' O sweet old man
Fresh is thy fame as when that fame began."

(Alexand. B. Grosart, LL.D., F.S.A.)

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Izaak Walton's Marriage Chest

"By the courtesy of the Earl of Warwick," says the *Fishing Gazette*, "we are enabled to give a photograph of the linen chest which belonged to Izaak Walton, which was discovered in Warwick Castle by Mr. E. H. New, the artist, when he illustrated Mr. Lane's edition of 'The Compleat Angler.'"

The inscription on it is—

> "Izaak Walton Raichel Flovd, joyned together in ye Holie Bonde of Wedlocke on ye 27th Daie of Decembere, A. 1626 D."
>
> "We once were two, we two made one,
> We no more two, through life bee one."

With reference to the Walton Wedding Chest Mr. New sends the following account. He says—

> "The finding of Walton's Marriage Chest was an accident. A cousin of mine was sketching some time ago at Warwick Castle, and the housekeeper took her over the private rooms to see the old furniture, pictures, etc The chest stood in a rather dark passage, but

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WALTON'S MARRIAGE CHEST

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she happened to catch the name of *Walton* on it as she passed, and, knowing I was illustrating 'The Compleat Angler,' she told me of it. Last autumn I wrote to Lord Warwick asking for permission to see the chest, and make a drawing of it if it seemed really genuine. He replied that he was unaware that he had such a chest, but that I was quite at liberty to draw it if I could find it."

Walton's Hanging Cupboard, as we have seen, is in the hands of Mr. Elkin Mathews. The above Marriage Chest is in Warwick Castle—but where is the curious Dower Coffer mentioned in *Notes and Queries*, 6th Ser. xii. p. 326, which was sold by auction, October 10, 1884, at Worcester, and which records the marriage of Izaak Walton and Ann Ken? "Eve of Saint Gregory, Ano. MDCXLVII. Dom." March 12, 1647, probably at Worcester.

Another Most Interesting Walton Relic

The publication in the *Fishing Gazette* of the illustration of the old carved linen chest which belonged to Izaak Walton and his first wife Rachel

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Floud, brought to light the existence of another beautiful cabinet now in the possession of Sir Henry Harben, of Warnham Lodge, Sussex. Izaak Walton must have had a special *penchant* for this kind of work; it is another indication that at no period of his life was he in needy circumstances. Young tradesmen just out of their apprenticeship do not usually think of perpetuating their names or their marriages on elaborately carved oak chests. Such little indulgences seem to point to a degree of worldly prosperity as well as of refined taste.

Mr. R. B. Marston obtained permission from Sir Henry Harben to photograph this fine cabinet, which bears the date 1656, three years after the date of the publication of the first edition of "The Compleat Angler," 1653. The story of it is sufficiently interesting to quote fully.

> "Sir Henry Harben," says Mr. Marston, "gave us some particulars about this cabinet which we have permission to print. With a pretty general knowledge of all that is known about Walton, we are unaware of any reference to this cabinet in any published writings by or about Walton, and believe this is the first public notice of it."

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A WALTON CABINET

(*From a photograph kindly supplied by the present owner, Sir Henry Harben, K.B. See description*)

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LETTER FROM SIR HENRY HARBEN

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your inquiries about the Izaak Walton cabinet, I bought it from a gentleman at Ealing, to whom it had been given as a wedding present, and who would not have parted with it but that he was going abroad, and could not take it with him.

"Before buying it, I had it examined by an expert, and on sending him down I told him the price asked for it, but told him not to make any bid for it until he had consulted me.

"But he was so much impressed with its value that he made an offer for it, lest it should be sold elsewhere.

"On reporting to me what he had done, he said he was afraid lest if it were submitted to auction it might fetch a price I might not like to give.

"I immediately sent to the gentleman, and paid him the price he asked for it.

"Pasted in one of the drawers is a piece of printed paper, evidently from a catalogue of sale of old date, of which I send you a copy.

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"You can reproduce the photograph in the *Fishing Gazette*.—Yours faithfully,

"HENRY HARBEN.

"Warnham Lodge, Sussex,
"R. B. Marston, Esq."

COPY OF THE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION REFERRED TO ABOVE

"Very fine and unique cabinet, the lower part with large drawers, richly moulded and carved, and cupboard with fall front enclosing pigeon holes, drawers, and secret recesses; above is cupboard, with carved and inlaid marqueterie panels in birds, flowers, &c. The top part is canopied with rich back, the centre panel in bold relief, 'The Day of Wrath,' and deeply recessed; figures and rich marqueterie panels in arches at sides; the frieze and cornice with mask heads, and inscribed with monograms and

"IZAAK WALTON ANNE,"
"16 VIRTVTE NON ARMIS FIDO. 56."

"Formerly in the old Deanery at Winchester, where the Angler Walton died at his son-in-law's."

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It is a little curious that this cabinet was not mentioned in Walton's will, seeing that his hanging cupboard was. Possibly he had given it during his lifetime to his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins, or to Dr. Hawkins's wife. He says in his will that he loved Dr. Hawkins "as his own son," and it was at his, Dr. H.'s, Prebendal House at Winchester he died, December 15, 1683.

He married Anne Ken about 1646, he being then fifty-three and his wife thirty-five. She died in 1662, and the cabinet bears the date 1656, when they were probably residing in Clerkenwell, for we know little about his life from 1650 to 1661.

IVY BRIDGE, RIVER ERME, DEVON

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NEAR UDIMORE, RIVER ROTHER

CHAPTER XII

Walton's literary work—Lives of great divines—List of his works—"Thealma and Clearchus"—Walton's preface—Walton's letter to Colonel Venables on the publication of his "Angling Improv'd."

WALTON'S LIVES OF GREAT DIVINES

EVERY author or editor of a "Life" of Walton has given more or less a detailed account of these works and the circumstances under which they were written. It is not my intention to repeat these oft-repeated tales; nevertheless I should consider my sketch very incomplete without a brief mention not only of these lives, but of the other writings of the good old author.

The *first complete edition* of *four* of the "Lives" was published in 1670, and is thus described by the author—

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THE

LIVES

Of { Dr. John Donne
Sir Henry Wotton
Mr. Richard Hooker
Mr. George Herbert

Written by IZAAK WALTON.

To which are added some Letters written by Mr. George Herbert, at his being in Cambridge; with others to his mother, the Lady Magdalen Herbert, written by John Donne, afterwards Dean of St. Paul's.

Eccles. 44, 7:
"These were honourable men in their Generations."

LONDON
Printed by Theo. Newcomb for Richard Marriott.
Sold by most Booksellers. 1670.

The *first edition* of "Life of Bishop Sanderson" was published in 1678.

There have been many editions in various forms since; the last edition bears no date on the title-page. It forms two volumes of the "Temple

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Classics," published by J. M. Dent and Co. At the end of the volume is the following note—

> "This issue of *Walton's Lives* is based upon John Major's edition of 1825, which was printed from a copy of the edition of 1675, 'corrected by *Walton's* own pen.' Major's 'illustrative notes' have been preserved, with some modifications of later hands. Mr. AUSTIN DOBSON has read the text, added the marginalia, and contributed the supplementary notes.—I. G.
>
> "Aug. 9, Walton's Birthday, 1898."

WALTON'S LITERARY WORKS ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1633. If one may judge by the lines addressed to him by S. P. (supposed to be Samuel Page) Walton must have been recognised as a poet as far back as 1613, when he was in his twentieth year (or at latest in the year 1619), when he would have been twenty-six. His first published lines seem to have been produced on the dates following—

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1633. "Elegy on the death of his friend Dr. Donne," of which these are the last lines—

> "Dull age, oh, I would spare thee, but th'art worse,
> Thou art not only dull, but hast a curse
> Of black ingratitude; if not, couldst thou
> Part with *miraculous Donne*, and make no vow
> For thee and thine, successively to pay
> A sad remembrance to his dying day?"

1635. "Lines on a portrait of Donne."

1638. "Lines addressed to the reader, in praise of my friend the author and his Booke prefixed to 'The Merchant's Mappe of Commerce,'" by Lewes Roberts, merchant.

1640. "Life of Dr. Donne," prefixed to Donne's sermons.

1642. Is supposed to have published "George Cranmer's Letter to Hooker," concerning the new Church discipline.

1643. "Lines on the death of my dear friend Mr. William Cartwright."

1646. Preface to "The Shephearde's Oracles" (a very amusing preface it is).

1650. Couplet written by Walton in his copy of Dr. Richard Sibbes' work "The Returning Backslider."

> "Of this blest man let this just praise be given,
> Heaven was in *him* before he was in heaven."

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1651. "Reliquiæ Wottonianæ," a collection of Lives, Letters, Poems, etc., by the curious pencil of the ever memorable Sir Henry Wotton, collected and edited by Izaak Walton.

1652. "Address to the Reader of 'The Hero of Lorenzo,'" a little book much valued by William Pickering.

1652. Commendatory verses on "Scintillula Altaris," by Edward Sparke, B.D.

1653. "The Compleat Angler," first edition.

1654. "Reliquiæ Wottonianæ," second edition, enlarged.

1655. "The Compleat Angler," second edition, revised.

1658. "Life of Dr. Donne," second edition, revised and enlarged.

1660. "To my ingenious friend Mr. Brome on his various and excellent poems an humble eglog."

1661. "The Compleat Angler," third edition; also some verses on "The Synagogue."

1665. The "Life of Mr. Richard Hooker."

1668. "The Compleat Angler," fourth edition.

1670. "Life of Mr. George Herbert," author of "The Temple," etc. Walton tells us that

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the following two lines were not allowed by the press licencer (the Vice-Chancellor)—

"Religion stands a-tiptoe in our land,
Ready to pass to the American strand."

But after much argument the Vice-Chancellor said, "I knew Mr. Herbert very well, and know that he had many heavenly speculations, and was a divine poet; but I hope the world will not take him for an inspired prophet, and therefore I licence the whole book."

1673. "Reliquiæ Wottonianæ," third edition, with large additions.

1673. From a letter to Marriott (preserved in Corpus Christi College, Oxford), it appears that Walton was collecting particulars of the life of John Hales of Oxford.

1674. "Herbert's Temple" with Walton's "Life" prefixed.

1676. "The Compleat Angler," fifth edition. The last edition published in Walton's lifetime, and the first with which the "second part" by Charles Cotton was combined. Mr. R. B. Marston purchased a copy of this edition, and it was from this edition that he printed the *Lea and Dove Edition*.

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1678. "Life of Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln."

1680. "Walton and Ben Jonson." Walton's letter from the Ashmolean Museum, written in his eighty-seventh year. It is a reply to a request from Aubrey for some information, "ffor your ffriends q^ue^ this. I only knew Ben Jonson, but my Lord of Winton knew him well." The letter is a very long one and very interesting, but said to be unreliable as to facts stated.

1683. "Thealma and Clearchus," written long since by John Chalkhill, an acquaintance and friend of Edmund Spencer. It was printed at Walton's instigation, and his Preface to it appropriately closes the account of his writings.

"THEALMA AND CLEARCHUS"[1]—WALTON'S PREFACE

"The Reader will find in this Book what the Title declares, a Pastoral History, in smooth

[1] The poem of "Thealma and Clearchus" was left in an unfinished state; it terminates abruptly with the half line—

"Thealma lives . ."

upon which Walton adds, "And here the author dy'd, and I hope the reader will be sorry.'

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and easie verse ; and will in it find many Hopes and Fears finely painted, and feelingly express'd. And he will find the first so often disappointed, when fullest of desire and expectation ; and the later, so often, so strangely, and so unexpectedly reliev'd, by an inforeseen Providence, as may beget in him wonder and amazement.

"And the Reader will also here meet with Passions heightened by easie and fit descriptions of Joy and sorrow ; and find also such various events and rewards of innocent Truth and undissembed Honesty, as is like to leave in him (if he be a good natur'd reader) more sympathising and virtuous impressions, than ten times so much time spent, in impertinent, critical, and needless Disputes about Religion ; and I heartily wish it may do so.

"And I have also this truth to say of the Author, that he was in time a man generally known, and as well beloved, for he was humble and obliging in his behaviour, a Gentleman, a Scholar, very innocent and prudent ; and indeed his whole life was useful, quiet, and virtuous. God send the story may meet with, or make all Readers like him.

"I. W.

"May 7, 1678."

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The following letter was written to Colonel Venables, after reading the proof sheets of his work, "The Experienced Angler; or, Angling Improv'd"—

LETTER FROM WALTON TO HIS INGENIOUS FRIEND THE AUTHOR ON HIS "ANGLING IMPROV'D"

"HONOURED SIR,

"Though I never (to my knowledge) had the happiness to see your face, accidentally coming to a view of this Discourse, before it went to the Press, I held myself obliged in point of gratitude for the great advantage I received thereby, to tender you my particular acknowledgment, especially having been for thirty years past, not only a lover but a practiser of that innocent Recreation, wherein by your judicious Precepts I find myself fitted for a *Higher Form*, which expression I take the boldness to use, because I have read and practised by many books of this kind, formerly made publick; from which (although I received much advantage in the practick) yet (without

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prejudice to their worthy authors) I could never find in them that height of *Judgement* and *Reason* which you have manifested in this (as I may call it) *Epitome* of *Angling*, since my reading whereof I cannot look upon some Notes of my own gathering, but methinks I do *puerilia tractare*. But lest I should be thought to go about to magnifie my own judgement, in giving yours so small a portion of its due, I humbly take leave with no more ambition than to kiss your hand, and to be accounted

"Your humble and thankful Servant,

"I. W."

Colonel Venables very wisely printed this letter at the commencement of his work, the first edition of which was published in 1662.

REYNARD'S CAVE, DOVE DALE

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THAMES, NEAR RICHMOND

CHAPTER XIII

Walton's connection with St. Dunstan's—Old engraving containing short history of the church—Another view from an unpublished picture of it—King Lud and his two sons.

WALTON'S connection with St. Dunstan's for many years as vestryman and sidesman has already been mentioned.

From a fine old engraving of the old church as it stood in Walton's time I have given here a reduced facsimile. It demands no exercise of imagination to suppose that one or other of the shops seen in front of the picture was occupied by Walton's friend and printer, Richard Marriott, from whence issued in the year 1653 the first tiny edition of "The Compleat Angler."

Underneath the engraving is the following brief history of the church—

"This Church was dedicated to St. Dunstan, Archb^{p} of Cant., who died A.D. 990, and

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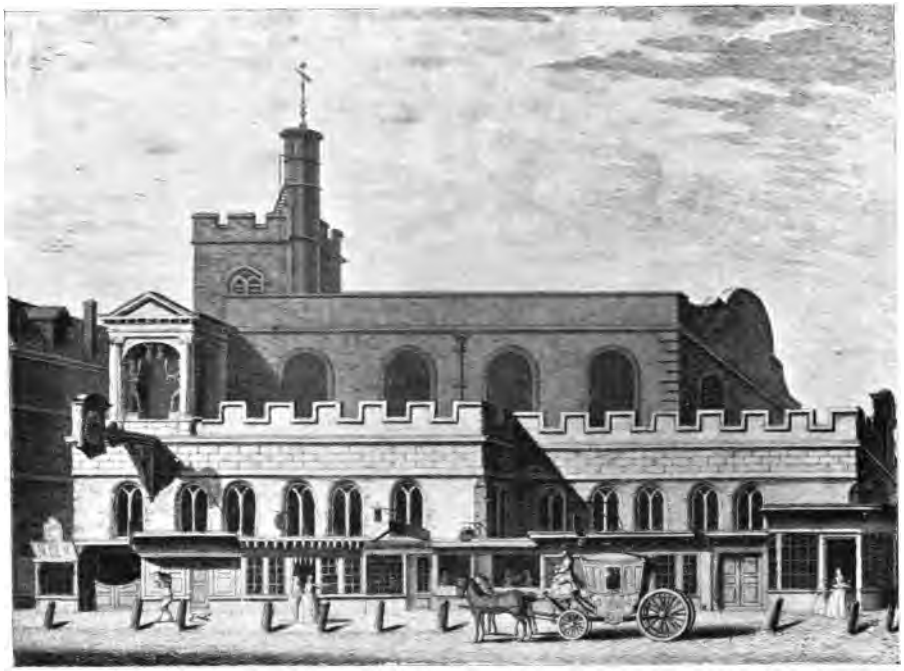

THE SOUTH-EAST PROSPECT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN IN THE WEST, MUCH AS IT WAS IN WALTON'S TIME, BETWEEN CHANCERY LANE AND FETTER LANE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF FLEET STREET

(*From an engraving published March* 18, 1739, *by R. West and W. H. Toms, and dedicated to the then patron of the church, Joseph Taylor, Esq.*)

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is commemorated May 19: ye Epithet of West is for distinction. It was anciently a Rectory in ye Patronage of ye Convent of West-minster, Richard de Barking, ye Abbot in 1237 granted ye Advowson to K. Henry III. whch continued in ye Crown till 1362; it was afterwards in ye Bp. of London, till 1386, when Robert de Braybroke ye Bp. granted it to ye Abbot and Convent of Premonastratenses of Alnwick in Northumbd where ye Patronage remained till their suppression K. Edwd VI. granted it to ye Lord Dudley, but both ye Rectory and Advowson of ye Vicarage were afterwds granted to Sr Richd Sackville, till alienated to George Rivers in 1625; it is now in ye gift of Joseph Taylor Esq. The Church luckily escaped ye fire in 1666, which stopp'd within 3 houses, as did also another fire in 1730; ye clock and figures were put up in 1671. Ye Church was thoroughly repaired, and ye roof considerably raised in 1701. It stands betw Chancery Lane and Fetter Lane, on ye Northside of Fleet Street, in ye Ward of Farringdon without."

The foregoing old print of St. Dunstan's bears

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no date, but it must have been published subsequent to the fire of 1730.

Like Izaac Walton, I have been a denizen of Fleet Street and the purlieus of St. Dunstan's for sixty years and more; like him I have been a vestryman for many years, and I was churchwarden for the two years ending March, 1886.

A fine old painting of a view of St. Dunstan's and Temple Bar came into my possession for a short period. I am not acquainted with its history, but I believe it was painted about 1709. I had a large photo engraving made of it, 18 ins. × 14 ins. It was not done for publication, and I had only a few copies printed. During the time of my churchwardenship I presented a copy of this picture to each of my brother vestrymen, and one impression hangs in the vestry-room. The picture presents a bit of "Vanished London" in a very interesting way and is *quite unique*. I have much pleasure in giving here a very small reproduction of it. It represents the eastern end of the church as it stood out in Fleet Street, and looking westward as far as Temple Bar, on the top of which may be dimly seen three poles, and on the top of each pole a ghastly head of some malefactor or riotous citizen. This east end singularly

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corresponds with the other picture, which presents a full-length view of the church on the north side of Fleet Street. The corner shop on the right-hand side of the one picture, with its small-paned window curving round to the east, seems to correspond exactly with the other picture, which presents the full front of the shop.

Y^e^ courteous Reader may choose which he pleases of these shops for Richard Marriot. John and Richard Marriot's imprint to "The Shepherd's Oracles" is—"In St. Dunstan's Churchyard *under the Dyall.*" In Walton's time, Button's coffee and confectionery shop stood somewhere hereabouts. In my time, I remember Button's quite well, and have frequently taken "coffee, roll and butter" there; but that shop, singularly like this corner shop as to shape of window, must have stood a little farther west, probably where the silversmith's shop now stands, corner of Chancery Lane.

"St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, which is now enriched by a Walton window, has possessed some queer works of art in its time. In 1830 there was a sale of some of these, and a statue of Queen Elizabeth sold for £16 10*s.*, and a stained glass window for £4 5*s.* It would be interesting now to know what this window was like. The people

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of St. Dunstan's are not the vandals they used to be. They recovered the statue of Queen Elizabeth, which now stands over the doorway of the parish schools. Other statues they once possessed they have not cared to retain. King Lud and his two sons were consigned to the parish bone house. A flag and flagstaff were sold for 12*s*. This is a pity; that flag should have waved when the Walton window was unveiled."

KING LUD AND HIS TWO SONS

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FLEET STREET, ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, AND TEMPLE BAR, ANNO DOMINI 1709

(*From an old painting of the period*)

The signs distinguishable on the right-hand side are "Buck's Head," "Three Keys," "Goose." The signs distinguishable on the left-hand side are "Bear" or "Dog," "Duck," and "Three Compasses." Over the shop under the church are the words "Clark, Cutler and Silversmith." Over that "Tea Urn Warehouse." With a magnifying glass three traitors' heads can be seen on poles on top of Temple Bar.

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AT ROCHESTER, RIVER DOVE

CHAPTER XIV

First memorial—Walton's initials on Casaubon's tomb, Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey—Michael Bland's suggestion to John Major—*Second memorial*, marble bust in St. Mary's Church, Stafford—*Third memorial*, statue in Winchester Cathedral—*Fourth memorial*, window in St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, London, and tablet on front wall of the church—Epilogue.

IZAAK WALTON'S MEMORIALS

ONE can scarcely think that it was out of a desire for posthumous fame that Izaak Walton, when he was sixty-five years old, scratched his initials on Izaac Casaubon's tomb[1] in the south transept in Westminster Abbey—"earliest of those unhappy

[1] Isaac Casaubon was a foreign scholar of the highest eminence. He came to England along with Sir Henry Wotton in 1610, who had, according to Walton, "contracted a most worthy friendship with that man of rare learning and ingenuity" ("Chambers' Book of Days"). Frank Buckland was the first to draw attention to the *initials*.

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inscriptions of names of visitors," writes Dean Stanley, "which have since defaced so many a

sacred space in the Abbey. 'O, si sic omnia.' . . . Let us in like manner forgive the angler for this mark of himself in Poet's Corner."

"It has been conjectured by Dean Stanley that he was named Izaak after the learned Isaack Casaubon, who was a friend of Walton's father" (quoted by Mr. Stapleton Martin).

At all events this slight, ungraceful, and unauthorised memento of himself is likely to be remembered, through the fact of Dean Stanley having mentioned it, as long as any other of his memorials. We will call this his *first memorial.*

The next suggestion of a memorial was made by Michael Bland, Esq., F.R.S., and is quoted in John Major's edition of Walton, 1844. The following is an extract from Major's Introduction—

> "Soon after the appearance of my first edition in 1823, I received the following from

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Michael Bland, Esq., F.R.S.: 'The Walton and Cotton Club, to which I am the secretary, adopting the idea suggested in your introductory essay, have resolved to institute an immediate inquiry into the condition of the insufficient monument to the memory of Honest Izaak in Winchester Cathedral, with the view of taking some steps toward the erection of a memorial more worthy of the man, and more honourable to those who delight in that recreation which he has so beautifully pourtrayed.' Whatever may have hitherto obstructed the above expressed intention, I still feel perfectly satisfied that it will be yet carried into effect. One gentleman, I was credibly informed, offered to put down 200 guineas to commence the work. But let a one guinea subscription be set on foot, and the lovers of literature and angling will carry it in a summer's day! The Dean of Winchester, I understood, to have expressed himself delighted that an honour, so justly due, should be paid to him as the 'Historian of the Church.'"

But it was not until 1878 that a marble bust

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was erected by public subscription in his native town of Stafford, in St. Mary's Church, the church in which he was baptised.

The *third memorial* was the statue now on the great screen in Winchester Cathedral, erected in 1888, hereafter fully described.

The *fourth memorial* is the memorial window unveiled in St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, London, in April, 1895, described hereafter, and the marble tablet on the wall of the church facing Fleet Street.

The accompanying illustration was taken by permission from a photograph by Mr. William Tilley, Stafford, of a not very successful bust of Walton by Belt, of London (which is said to have cost £250), bearing the inscription—

> "Izaak Walton, Piscator. Born in this parish, August 9, 1593. Baptized in this Church, September 21, 1593. Buried in Winchester Cathedral, December 17, 1683. Erected by Public Subscription, 1878."

NEAR PONDER'S END

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MONUMENT TO IZAAK WALTON IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STAFFORD

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STATUE OF WALTON IN WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The statue of which I have now the pleasure of giving a representation was placed in the great screen, Winchester Cathedral, in the year 1888. Funds for the erection of it were obtained by the editor of "The Lea and Dove Edition," Mr. R. B. Marston.

As the information will be new to many readers of Izaak Walton I make no apology for explaining how the idea of erecting such a statue originated, and how it was carried out.

(From the *Fishing Gazette*, October 2, 1886.)

"PROPOSED STATUE TO IZAAK WALTON IN WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

"SUGGESTED SUBSCRIPTION BY ANGLERS

"Mr. H. T. Jenkins, of the Portsmouth Waltonian Club, Southsea, writes the following letter to the *Times*—

'To the Editor of the *Times*.

'SIR,—The Dean of Winchester, the Very Rev. Dr. Kitchin, has intimated that should

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a vacant niche be left in the great screen in Winchester Cathedral it shall be occupied by a statue of the friend of the good Bishop Ken, and the Father of Anglers (who lies buried in Winchester Cathedral), Izaak Walton. I am sure such an occupation would give universal satisfaction to my brothers of the angle, and I should hope that it might be their privilege to contribute to the cost of the statue. As a humble member of the fraternity I would willingly contribute my mite.

'Your obedient Servant,

'H. T. JENKINS.

'Sept. 23, 1886.'

"We quite agree with Mr. Jenkins, and as soon as it is decided that a place will be reserved for it in the great screen we shall open an 'Izaak Walton Statue Subscription List,' and subscribe towards it, and have no doubt sufficient funds will soon be forthcoming."

(From the *Fishing Gazette* of October 9, 1886.)

"Our readers will see from the letter which we publish this week from the Very Reverend

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Dr. Kitchin, Dean of Winchester, that the Dean is quite ready to give a place to a Statue of Izaak Walton if anglers will contribute the necessary funds. It appears that the total cost will only be about £80, and there can be no doubt that sum will soon be collected. Every angler who has any reverence for the memory of the 'Father of Angling' will like to contribute to erect a statue to him. We shall be very glad to receive and acknowledge in the *Gazette* any subscriptions sent to us for this purpose.

"Will secretaries of clubs kindly bring the matter before their members? Cheques or Post Office orders should be made payable to R. B. Marston, 188, Fleet Street, and marked 'For the Walton Statue Fund.'"

The following is a copy of the Dean's letter—

"SIR,—My suggestion that the Dean and Chapter should find a place on the Great Screen for Izaak Walton, has attracted so much attention, that I hope you will allow me to assure the lovers of the gentle craft that we will gladly reserve a niche for the

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'Father of Angling' should anglers be kindly inclined to present us with his statue. We should set him over against his brother-in-law, the good Bishop Ken, who is said to have repaid Walton's loving care over him in youth by penning those simple and graceful lines which are over the 'aged sire's' resting place, and were reproduced in your last week's *Gazette*. Walton lived to a great age, and died in the house of his son-in-law, Dr. Hawkins, who was one of the Prebendaries of this Cathedral. Ken, who was also Prebendary of Winchester, lived in a house in the Close, unfortunately pulled down some thirty years ago; and there, too, Walton was a frequent visitor. The garden of the house stretches down to a bright little stream, one of the many branches of the Itchen—in which even now a trout may sometimes be taken;—and we can imagine how often the old man's steps carried him to the riverside, where he might meditate in his own sweet, simple fashion, on the graceful creatures lying under the shady bank, or darting to and fro in the shallow stream.

"I should like to be allowed to add for

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THE IZAAK WALTON STATUE IN THE GREAT SCREEN AT WINCHESTER.

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the information of those who may feel inclined to help us, that the cost of such a statue as that of Izaak Walton with its due Canopy and Pedestal will certainly not exceed £80 all told. It will be a matter of high gratification to us if we are able to place among our noble company of Winchester worthies the forms of these two honoured kinsmen, men congenial in the purity and simplicity of their characters, unrivalled masters of the sterling English which has given our literature so high a place in the world—the one as the composer of the two hymns which, for all English speaking people, sanctify the sun rising and the dying day; the other, author of 'The Complete Angler,' one of the two or three books which bear perpetual, and eloquent witness—to the healthy English love of a country life.

"I am, etc.,

"G. W. KITCHIN.

'The Deanery, Winchester,
"Oct. 2, 1886."

The Editor adds—

"It is only necessary to add—and I do so with great pleasure and satisfaction—that the

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subscription which I opened in the *Fishing Gazette*, brought in more than sufficient to provide the statue, which has been most charmingly executed by Miss Mary Grant, and is to be placed in the Great Screen of Winchester Cathedral this autumn (1888).

"The Memorial Marble Tablet by Mr. Louis Schots, in memory of the late Mr. Francis Francis, the well-known angler and angling writer, which was suggested by Mr. Wm. Senior, the angling editor (now, 1908, editor) of the *Field*, and funds for which were subscribed chiefly by members of The Fly-fishers' Club, was fixed in a prominent place in the Cathedral during the past summer (1888), so that anglers have now two additional objects of interest at Winchester."

The Izaak Walton Memorial Window

in St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, London. Unveiled by W. Baily, Esq., Master of the Ironmongers' Company (of which Walton was a member), Friday, April 5th, 1895.

The following extract from the *Fishing Gazette*

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of September 22, 1894, will explain how the Memorial originated—

"St. Dunstan's House, Fetter-lane, London.
"September, 1894.

"It was decided at a meeting of delegates from the principal London angling associations, held at Broxbourne under the presidency of Mr. Wm. Senior, the Angling Editor of the *Field*, to celebrate the tercentenary of Walton's birth—that, as there was no memorial of Walton in London, steps should be taken to provide one, and Mr. Marston was asked to take the matter in hand."

Mr. Marston had previously written to the Rector of St. Dunstan's in the West, with which Church Walton was so long connected, and received the following reply—

"St. Dunstan's Vestry,
"Fleet-street, E.C.

"MY DEAR MR. MARSTON,—

"I cordially approve of your suggestion, and I am very grateful to you for writing to me about it.

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"I should consider it a great honour to St. Dunstan's Church to have some memorial in it of Izaak Walton. I had better see you about it when it is convenient to you.

"Very sincerely yours,

"WILLIAM MARTIN.

"R. B. Marston, Esq."

In response to Mr. Marston's appeal subscriptions to the amount of nearly £120 were received, with the result that the memorial window was completed and placed in the church April 5, 1895.

The centre figure is a copy of the statue of Walton made by Miss Mary Grant for the great screen of Winchester Cathedral.

The portraits on the left side of the window are those of Sir Henry Wotton, Bishop Ken, and George Herbert. Those on the right are of Dr. John Donne, Richard Hooker, and Dr. Robert Sanderson.

The window was designed and made by Messrs. Percy Bacon and Brothers, 11, Newman Street, Oxford Street, London, who generously supplied all material and work at cost price.

In addition to the memorial window, some enthusiastic anglers caused a tablet to be placed

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on the front wall of the church. The following is a copy of it—

THE MEMORIAL TABLET

TO THE MEMORY OF
IZAAK WALTON,
Born at Stafford Aug: IXth mdxciii,
Died Dec: xvth mdclxxxiii.
Buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Author of "The Compleat Angler," also of the "Lives" of Dr Donne, Richard Hooker, George Herbert, Dr Sanderson, &c.

WALTON resided for many years in Fleet Street at the corner of Chancery Lane (West side), and between 1632 and 1644 was an Overseer of the Poor, a Sidesman, and a Vestryman of this Parish: he was also a Member of the Ironmongers' Company.

THIS TABLET, and the STAINED GLASS WINDOW on the North West side of this Church, were erected by some Anglers and other admirers of Walton in the month of April 1895.

James Booty.
Joseph Crowther.
Churchwardens, St. Dunstan's in the West.
Wm Martin. . . . . Rector.

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The above is a copy of the wording on the Memorial Tablet which, by kind permission of the

PICTURE OF THE MEMORIAL WINDOW
(*By kind permission of Mr. Stapleton Martin*)

Rev. Wm. Martin, the Rector, who has taken the greatest interest in this Memorial, is also placed

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this day, April 5, 1895, on the front wall of St. Dunstan's Church, facing Fleet Street.

IZAAK WALTON MEMORIAL WINDOW

(St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet Street, London)

The occasion of the unveiling of this Memorial Window was an interesting one, and I may be excused for recording it in some detail. The church was crowded on the occasion, including among the visitors the Master of the Ironmongers' Company, Mr. Walker Baily, and many members of that company. Mr. Baily gave an interesting address in which he told the story of Walton's connection with the Ironmongers' Company (which I have already partly quoted; see Part I. Chap iii.).

Mr. R. B. Marston told the story of the origin of the window, and referring to its quality, said the colours would last as long as glass could last. He then described the window in detail.

> "The centre light of this window contains a full-length figure of Walton, being a copy of the charming statue by Miss Mary Grant in Winchester Cathedral, and a smaller panel shows him seated at his library table

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surrounded by books and trophies of his art. The side lights enshrine portraits of men whose lives he wrote. At the top of the left-hand light is Sir Henry Wotton, with his coat of arms, and a view of Eton College, of which he was for some time Provost. Lower down is Bishop Ken and an elevation of Wells Cathedral. In the lowest panel is George Herbert, the poet, and his church at Bemerton is depicted on a shield. At the top of the right-hand light is Dr. Donne, Dean of Old St. Paul's, of which the west front is shown; beneath him is the 'judicious' Hooker and his delightful little church at Barham, near Canterbury. The third panel depicts Bishop Sanderson and his cathedral at Lincoln.

"Angels in the tracery hold scrolls of the virtues. In the two side quatrefoils are blazoned the arms of St. Dunstan and of the Ironmongers' Company. The centre quatrefoil contains the intertwined monograms of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton."

Mr. Wm. Senior (Editor of the *Field*) in an interesting speech thanked the Master of the Ironmongers' Company for the information he had

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given them, a good deal of which was actually new, about Izaak Walton. He complimented Mr. Marston on his share in the production of the window, and on behalf of the London anglers again thanked Mr. Baily for having almost literally as well as figuratively put the hall-mark to a splendid work, to a beautiful window, which illustrated a good man, and an interesting chapter or period in English history, and which, he further ventured to say, was not out of harmony with a beautiful church.

> "The Rev. Wm. Martin said, on behalf of the churchwardens and parishioners, he accepted most gratefully the beautiful window offered them, and placed in the church that day. They also desired to tender their warmest thanks to Mr. Marston and others who had taken such an interest in the memorial. He did not look upon it simply as the memorial of one worthy man, but of seven worthy men, and he thought it would be very interesting if some one would write the history in connection with the window, bringing into the book also the history of those men.[1]

[1] The Rev. W. Martin left St. Dunstan's ten years ago,

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> "A hymn was then sung, and with the Benediction the unveiling service was brought to a close."

to the regret of all his friends. He is now Vicar of Darley Abbey, Derby. The publication of this volume will show him that I have in some small measure tried to carry out the wish above expressed.

NEAR MARLEY, ROTHER, SUSSEX

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TOTTENHAM LOCK, RIVER LEA

EPILOGUE

WE *know* that Izaak Walton was born in 1593, and we know that he was "born, not made" an angler—*ergo*, I, for one, have no difficulty in believing that during the unknown first sixteen years of his life much of his time must have been spent on the "banks and braes and streams around" the old Castle of Stafford; there he must have served his first apprenticeship, and laid the foundation of a knowledge of the gentle art which has made his name famous for so many generations.

We can guess that Izaak Walton found his way to London when he was about sixteen years old. (The present writer has *guessed* that he may have been taken there much earlier.)

We know that he was apprenticed to one Thomas Grinsell.

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We do not know in what part of London he was apprenticed, or the precise nature of his business.[1]

We should like to know whether Grinsell was a stingy old curmudgeon who kept Izaak's nose to the grindstone, or whether, as is more likely, he was a genial and jolly old boy (like John Gilpin) who went a-fishing with young Izaak on half-holidays to the New River,[2] and on whole holidays to Edmonton or Ware.

We know that in November, 1618, when he was twenty-five years old, he was admitted a member of the Ironmongers' Company.

Between the years 1618 and 1624 there is a vacuum of silence (unless Page's poem, mentioned in Part II. Chap. ii., may be taken as a slight indicator).

From 1624 to 1628 he must have lived in Fleet Street.

In 1626 he married Rachel Floud.

From 1628 and onwards till 1644 he lived in Chancery Lane.

In 1640 he lost his first wife Rachel.

In 1644 he probably removed to Clerkenwell and remained there more or less till 1661.

[1] See Postscript, page 211.

[2] The first sod was turned April 21, 1609—completed 1613, when Izaak was twenty years old.

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In 1647 he married his "Kenna."

In 1648–9 he spent more than a year at his Stafford cottage (with George Morley).

In 1661 he and Kenna visited Bishop Morley at Worcester.

In 1662 "Kenna" died and was buried in Worcester Cathedral.

From 1662 to 1693 his headquarters were chiefly in Winchester, but also at Salisbury. He died in Winchester.

It will thus be seen that from the year 1609 to 1662 Walton's headquarters were in London—a period of fifty-three years.

It was during those fifty-three years that he certainly fished in all the rivers recorded as having been fished by himself in the first five editions of "The Compleat Angler" published during his lifetime.

It could not have been very long previous to the year 1676 that Walton became intimately acquainted with Charles Cotton. Walton may have gone over to the Dove when he was staying at Shallowford in the early days, but there is nothing to show that he fished there with Cotton till shortly before 1676. There is no doubt about

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his having been a welcome visitor to Beresford Hall; but, as has already been said, there is nothing to show that he ever actually saw the *completed Fishing-house.* A journey from Winchester to Beresford Hall would have been no trifling undertaking for even a vigorous old man of eighty-three in those rough times—and all we know is that on April 29, 1676, Walton wrote to Cotton—

> "Though I be more than a hundred miles from you and in the eighty-third year of my age, yet I will forget both, and next month begin a Pilgrimage to beg your pardon, for, I would dye in your favour; and till then will live, sir,
>
> "Your most affte Father and friend,
>
> "IZAAK WALTON."

(Did he pay that visit? No one knows—the probability is that he did *not.*)

We have still to account for the last thirty-one years of Walton's life, spent mainly at Winchester. I have already imagined partly how those peaceful, uneventful days were spent, for although he is silent himself we must insist that much of his time was spent in fishing; and for the rest he seems to

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have found pleasant and abundant occupation for his pen, in writing those delightful "Lives" and other works already mentioned.

> "So when I would beget content, and increase confidence in the power and wisdom and providence of Almighty God, I will walk the meadows by some gliding stream, and there contemplate the lilies that take no care, and those many other various little living creatures that are not only created but fed, man knows not how, by the goodness of the God of nature, and so—
>
> "Let every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord."

POSTSCRIPT

SINCE the earlier sheets had gone to press I have received, through the courtesy of the Rev. H. Lionel James, Rector of St. Dunstan's, several extracts from the parish registers having reference to Izaak Walton and Thomas Grinsell, of which the following are interesting. It appears that altogether there

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are ten entries in the registers, mentioning Izaak Walton, and numerous entries relating to John Walton and another (who may or may not have been connected with Izaak).

> "Thomas Grinsell, citizen, and ironmonger, served as inquestman 1623 and 1630, and grand juryman 1625; his first child was baptized here 1611; his last 1622." (This was during the period of Walton's apprenticeship with him.)
>
> "March 5, 1644. Thomas Grinsell was buried in the church." (Therefore not in Paddington Church, as noted page 103.)
>
> "October 2, 1647. Mrs. Ann Grinsell, Widd., was buryed in the body of the church, from *Mr. Walton's in Chancery Lane.*"

One might gather from the foregoing: (1) That Grinsell (citizen and ironmonger) carried on his business, whatever it was, in the parish of St. Dunstan's; (2) That Izaak Walton was apprenticed to him there; (3) That although Walton had gone to live in Clerkenwell in 1644, he was apparently living in Chancery Lane in 1647 when Ann Grinsell died there.

The Master of the Ironmongers' Company (see page 105) tells us that Walton, as a member of the Ironmongers' Company, was an ironmonger—his master Grinsell was an ironmonger, as were

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also Grinsell's master, Cavell, and Dane, who was Cavell's master—four generations of Ironmongers. Not one of them has told us what his real occupation in life was. All that we really *know* is that Izaak Walton was AN ANGLER.

With reference to the fragments of letters recently discovered by Mr. Dewar, he has kindly sent me the following memorandum—

> "The two fragments of Walton's letters are very small ones—one is dated January, 1678, and is addressed to a Lady; the other is addressed to a Mr. John Benmoure. Neither of these tiny scraps could by any stretch of imagination be called 'important,' but anything of Walton's has, I suppose, some interest. I do not know Benmoure as a friend of Walton's, and I do not know a date January 19, 1678, as one of any published letters of Walton's, but I think in all probability the fragments are genuine—so far as they go."

MAPPLETON

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THE FERRY AT DYNEY, RIVER THAMES

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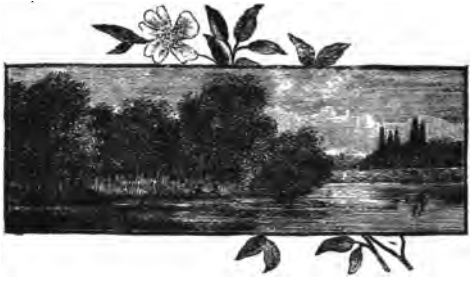

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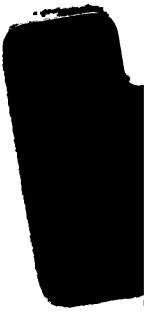

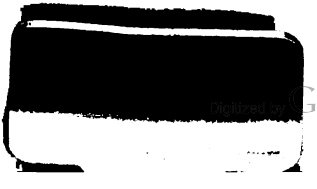

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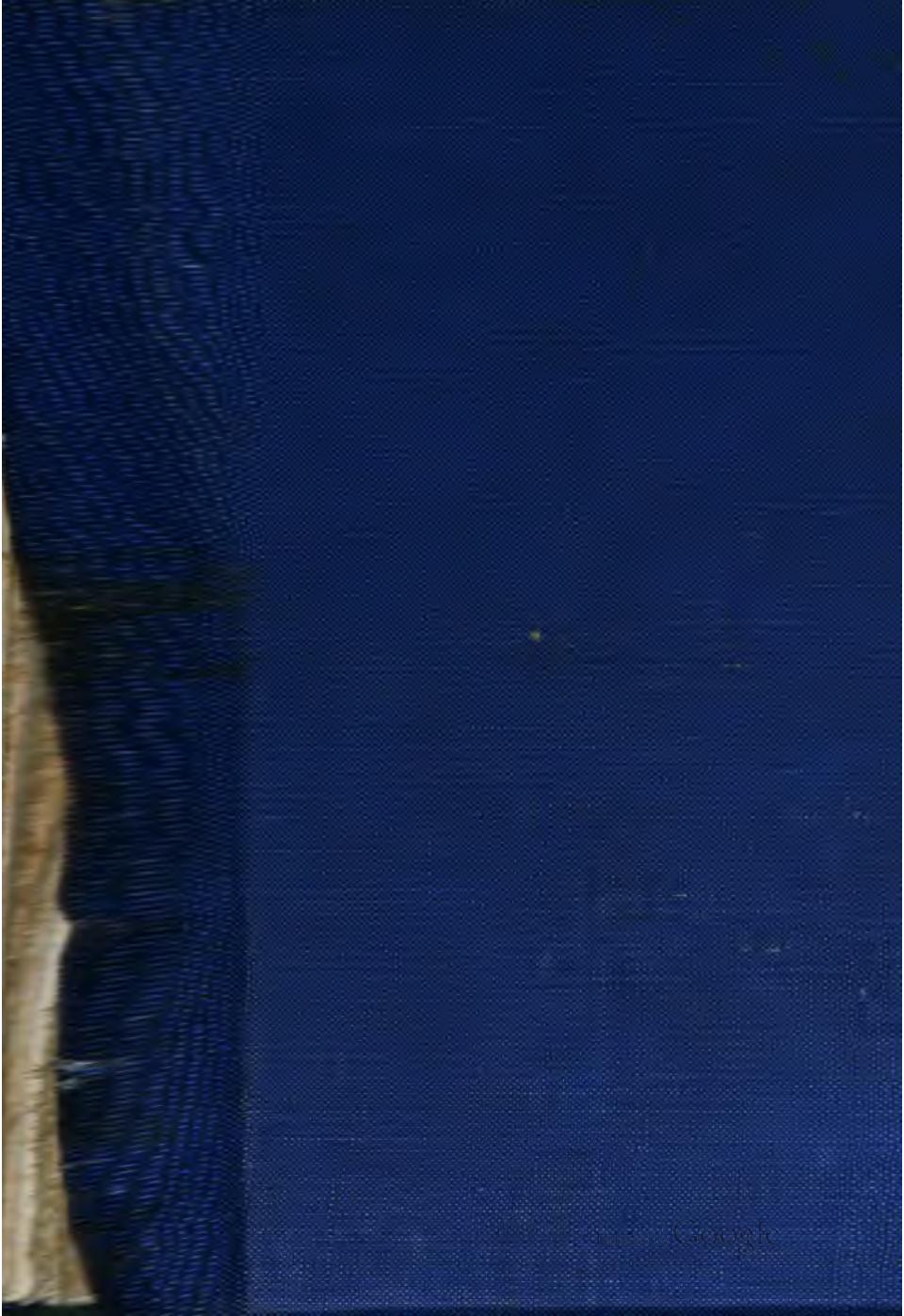
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